



NEW WORLD

News and comment on the United Nations and UNA

April-June 2005

A UNITED NATIONS FOR LARGER FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

Looking Forward and Looking Back



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The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of *New World* is noon on Monday, 6 June 2005. The next issue will cover the period 1 July to 30 September 2005. Please send all contributions by e-mail where possible to vlie@una-uk.org. Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi resolution.



FROM EXEC

The last three months have seen enormous changes at both the UN and UNA. There are a number of exciting developments to report.

I am delighted to announce a new partnership between UNA-UK and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. The FCO has tasked UNA-UK with organising a series of nine national and regional public debates around the United Kingdom on the recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel Report (see page 14). The FCO minister with responsibility for the UN, Bill Rammell MP, has already participated in three such joint events in London, Cambridge and Leeds, which were organised at short notice in March. A further six national/regional and up to 20 sub-regional events are planned for the period May to July 2005. This national consultation process, involving UNA members in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, is an example of the value of UNA's strong grassroots membership base, and how this strengthens our advocacy work with government. As we renew UNA, we must do all we can to increase our membership, making UNA more appealing and relevant to a broad range of ethnicity, class and age. By the end of the year I hope that we will have a range of campaign materials for use by branches and regions at a local level, to raise awareness about the UN, and to bring about change.

In addition to securing significant funds from the government for the national public

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SAM DAWS

UTIVE DIRECTOR

debates, UNA has obtained a generous grant from the Polden Puckham Charitable Trust, specifically for the renewal of UNA, and from the Network for Social Change and the HT and LB Cadbury Trust for a redesign of our website. However, our financial needs remain urgent and considerable, and in this issue of *New World* we are initiating a regular giving appeal for funds to help preserve and strengthen UNA. By donating £3 or more per month you can help to rebuild and renew UNA so that we can become a real force for change in international affairs in this country. I am personally extremely grateful for the tremendous support that UNA members and supporters have given in the past to this great organisation, and sincerely hope that in this year, UNA's 60th anniversary, we can all give generously. I will provide a regular update on donations received through this appeal in *New World* over the next 18 months.

UNA coordinated the 9th annual Lobby of Parliament in London on 9 March 2005, in partnership with Action for UN Renewal, and a record number of participating organisations. Speakers included the Chair of the UN Parliamentary Group, Tony Colman MP; UNA Chair Sir Richard Jolly; CND Vice-President Bruce Kent; Director of the UN Millennium Campaign Salil Shetty, and Amnesty International UK Parliamentary Officer Maniza Ntekim. During the day UNA members had a chance to put a number of challenging questions to their MPs, and we will ensure that the momentum to hold the government to account on its policies toward the UN is maintained. The Lobby indicated strong support for the UN from MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum.

When the UN Secretary-General visited the UK on 10 February, UNA had a prominent role in an event at the Banqueting House in Whitehall to express British support for the United Nations and for Kofi Annan personally. The Secretary-General gave an inspiring speech, which received positive responses from the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, and UNA Chair Sir

Richard Jolly. Over half the audience were UNA members, and after the event we received many expressions of interest from others in joining UNA.

Following a campaign by UNA's youth wing, UNYSA, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw has agreed to fund three UK youth delegates to the UN General Assembly this autumn. This is an exciting opportunity for young people to make a difference and to represent Britain at the UN, and a major achievement for UNYSA. Mr Straw has also agreed to sponsor two events to be co-organised with UNA to commemorate UN60: the first on Monday, 27 June 2005, to mark the anniversary of the sign-

“As we renew UNA, we must do all we can to increase our membership, making UNA more appealing and relevant to a broad range of ethnicity, class and age”

ing of the UN Charter; and the second on 10 January 2006 to mark the anniversary of the first session of the UN General Assembly, held at Central Hall, Westminster in January 1946. The details of these events will be finalised following the general election.

The feedback from the initial re-design of *New World* in January has been overwhelmingly positive. In response to suggestions we have, in this issue, increased the size of the font used, and the number of photographs, as well as the space given to UNA activities and feedback.

This issue of *New World* continues to develop UNA's core programme themes. On the MDGs, Zarin Hainsworth of UNIFEM UK reports on progress since the original UN Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and Sir Richard Jolly

reflects on the newly published Report of the Commission for Africa. In the area of peace and security, Sarah Carter and Alex Ramsbotham review ways forward for the NPT whilst Nadia Shahbaz turns to the practicalities on the ground, providing a comment piece on the challenges facing peacebuilding in Afghanistan. On human rights, Laura Mucha reviews options for reforming the UN Human Rights Commission, and outlines why the government should sign up to the UN Migrant Workers Convention.

The UN itself continues to come under attack for 'Oil for Food' and allegations of sexual exploitation by peacekeepers. Up to date briefings on these subjects appear on UNA's website.

UNA has been active in responding to media criticism of the UN, with a plethora of television and radio interviews on the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and the British Forces Broadcasting Service. With the support of the UN Secretariat in New York, UNA is seeking to establish a rapid-rebuttal unit to respond to negative and inaccurate media coverage of the UN in the UK. UNA members interested in being part of this initiative should contact Veronica Lie at vlie@una-uk.org, or 020 7766 3451.

New UN Chief of Staff Mark Malloch-Brown has already produced welcome changes in UN efficiency, accountability and openness. UN member states need to do the same. The US Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction has condemned the mismanagement of billions of dollars of funds by the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. The CPA should now demonstrate the same transparency and accountability that the UN has voluntarily subjected itself to.

With his new report 'In Larger Freedom', Kofi Annan challenges member states to choose a renewal of the UN and multilateralism over a descent into wider conflict, increased inequality and the erosion of international law. UNA-UK has a vital role to play in mobilising political will to strengthen the UN at this crucial moment in world history.

A RADICAL BLUEPRINT FOR UN RENEWAL

"In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all"

On the day this issue of *New World* went to press, the Secretary-General presented to the UN General Assembly his own report on a renewed role for the United Nations. This report, entitled 'In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all', includes the principal proposals of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, and reaffirms the findings of the Millennium Project, the implementation plan produced by a team of 265 development experts for realising the MDGs. In the words of the Secretary-General: "Humanity will not enjoy security without development, it will not enjoy development without security, and it will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."

'In larger freedom' is a key phrase from the Preamble to the UN Charter, and the report is structured around three freedoms (freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom to live in dignity) and the strengthening of the UN as an institution. This choice of phraseology is clearly a deliberate echo of the famous 'Four Freedoms' speech by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt to Congress in 1941.

In this new report the Secretary-General

endorses the Millennium Project in arguing that there needs to be a compact between developed and developing countries. Developed countries must work towards the UN 0.7% ODA target by 2015, support the Doha trade round, including lifting all trade barriers on exports from the Least Developed Countries, and address debt. Developing countries must, in return, improve governance and accountability, fight corruption, and develop the capacity to absorb external assistance.

In tackling 'new threats' to peace and security, the Secretary-General presents a comprehensive strategy to address terrorism, using a framework of five 'Ds': dissuading people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism; denying terrorists funds and materials; deterring states from sponsoring terrorism; developing national capacity to counter the threat of terrorism; and defending human rights.

In addition to supporting a number of the other proposals contained in the High-Level Panel Report, the Secretary-General offers a new proposal advocating the creation of a UN Democracy Fund to assist the establishment of new democracies and the strengthening of existing democracies.

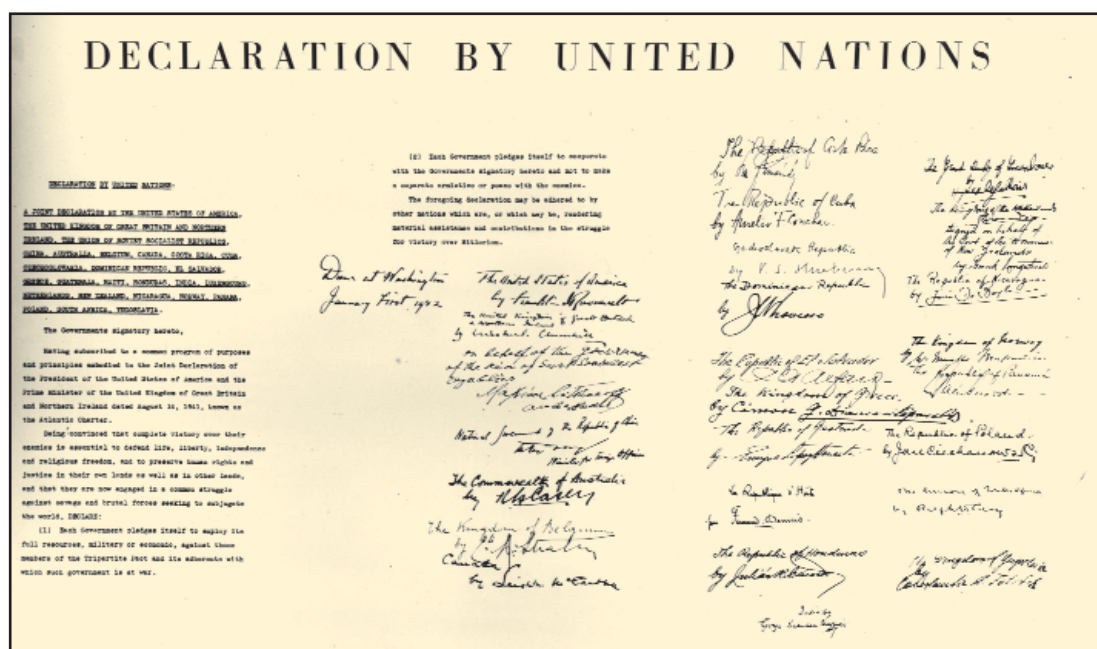


He also departs from the Panel Report in only one principal respect, in that he favours the establishment of a smaller Human Rights Council to replace the Commission on Human Rights, and to be elected directly by a two-thirds' majority of those present and voting in the General Assembly. While the Secretary-General does not expressly endorse either of the High-Level Panel's models for Security Council expansion, he recommends that UN member states come to an agreement on this issue before the Millennium Review Summit in September.

In his landmark speech to Congress back in 1941, President Roosevelt said of his four freedoms that they were "no vision of a distant millennium". The UN Secretary-General's freedoms are similarly realistic, but he has expressed the hope that "from pragmatic beginnings could emerge a visionary change of direction for the world".

In agreement with the Foreign Office, the format of the High-Level Panel public debates in June and July will take account of this important contribution from the Secretary-General.

Veronica Lie and Sam Daws



Declaration by the United Nations, signed by 26 states on 14 August 1941



OUR COMMON INTEREST

Sir Richard Jolly and **Camille Narayan** review *Our Common Interest: Report of the Commission for Africa*

"African poverty and stagnation is the greatest tragedy of our time. Poverty on such a scale demands a forceful response."

These are the opening words of the Report of the Commission on Africa, *Our Common Interest*, released simultaneously in London, New York and Addis Ababa on 11 March. The Report proposes a bold, comprehensive and coherent package of policies and action for the reduction of poverty in Africa over the coming decade. Far from proposing a bit more of everything underway at present, the Report calls for a new and forceful push to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015. Underlying this aim is a new partnership in which African governments and people take the lead as agents of their own change – and are enabled to do so by larger levels of more effective support from richer countries. The overall vision is to build "towards a just world of which Africa is an integral part".

Africa deserves a special focus this year. In September at the Millennium Review Summit at the UN in New York, heads of government will gather to assess the world's progress towards achieving the MDGs for poverty reduction. According to the latest statistics, many countries have made notable strides towards the goals – but not in sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, the number of people in sub-Saharan Africa living below the poverty line swelled from 227 million in 1991 to 313 million in 2001. This contrast is repeated in the majority of the indicators used to track progress on the MDGs.

However, as the Report argues convincingly, all is not gloom. A dozen or so sub-Saharan African countries have recently made real progress in accelerating economic growth and moving towards at least some of the Goals. Multi-party democratic governance has been established in a growing number of countries, and there is a new spirit of optimism in many parts of the continent. These developments depart sharply from the lost decades of the 1980s and 1990s and provide a solid foundation for renewed momentum in the fight to achieve the MDGs.

The Report emphasises a tough agenda for action in Africa and internationally.

Priorities for action within Africa include both direct measures for achieving the MDGs and indirect measures, such as tackling corruption, controlling arms, supporting small farmers, investing in small-scale entrepreneurs, and improving infrastructure. There are many examples of such actions underway, though they need to be taken up more widely. Thus the Report hits hard on the head any lingering excuses used in the past to deny Africa the international support it needs to accelerate progress.

The Report proposes international action by rich nations which parallels elements already contained in Goal 8 of the MDGs:



larger and more effective aid flows, fairer trade, debt cancellation, technological support and much else. However, whereas Goal 8 signally failed to specify quantitative targets and dates for their attainment, many of the Report's targets are quantitative, time-bound and bold. Specifically, the Report calls on rich nations to double aid to sub-Saharan Africa over the next three to five years, requiring an increase of US\$25 billion. The Report then proposes a further \$25 billion, thus tripling total aid by 2015.

The Report's proposals for tripling aid flows to sub-Saharan Africa over the next decade are complemented by strategies for improving aid quality – making aid flows more predictable and less tied in bureaucratic rigmarole, with greatly reduced policy conditionality. The Report also prescribes 100% debt cancellation, as soon as possible, for poor countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and proposes that work begin immediately to establish a transparent debt compact to facilitate the cancellation of both multilateral and bilateral debt. These initiatives are part of a much wider agenda covering the fight

against HIV/AIDS and corruption, and efforts to augment levels of education by increasing investment in universities and removing school fees for all children.

Many of these recommendations have been made many times before by both UNA-UK and other NGOs. What is new this time is that the recommendations arose out of a widespread consultation throughout Africa and represent the thinking of an extremely experienced panel of seventeen members, ten of whom are African. More important, most of the Commission's members have their hands on levers of power, so they can act. Tony Blair is committed to act on these proposals, as the UK hosts the G8 summit in July and holds the presidency of the EU over the second half of the year. Also of importance are the support and leadership of the other Commissioners who, together, represent an impressive diversity of experience: Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, two finance ministers, a governor of a central bank, and others from the private sector and NGOs, as well as Bob Geldof, pop-singer and campaigning activist. The dynamism of this talented panel shows itself in flashes of wit and insight – and some wonderful African proverbs – in this comprehensive and well-written report.

The Report paves the way for the UK government to provide strong leadership in the G8 and the EU. Will it happen? The test of the Report's credibility, and the commitment of the UK government, will be evident in the months and years ahead. As Bob Geldof said (with only a few of his trademark 'S' and 'F' words), "a copy of the Report will surely be put in the British Library reading room. When consulted in 2099, a reader at that time will surely conclude that this comprehensive report got the issues of Africa right. But the question will be – what did our generation do in response?"

Sir Richard Jolly, Chair of UNA, is one of the ten members of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel appointed to advise on international support needed for NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa's Development. This panel's report will be presented in May 2005.



HUMAN RIGHTS

by **Laura Mucha**, Research Associate, UNA-UK Human Rights Programme

REFORMING THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR)

Established under the UN Charter as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) is the leading human rights body within the UN system. Today, its mandate is to promote and protect human rights worldwide, and take action against violations wherever they occur. While the CHR has been successful in bringing onto the international agenda a number of key issues - among them violence against women, economic and social rights, the death penalty and corporate social responsibility - it has come under increas-

ing criticism over its composition, operational effectiveness and susceptibility to politicisation. There has been widespread concern over the election to the CHR of states with poor human rights records (such as Libya, a recent Chair) and, more broadly, over state motivations in seeking election (to criticise others or to provide insulation against criticism). Last year, for example, certain Commission members blocked Cuba's draft resolution on the Guantánamo Bay detainees, which means that this important issue has not yet made it onto the CHR agenda. Speaking before the CHR's annual session in 2004, Irene Khan of Amnesty International warned that, without the proper reform, the CHR "risks becoming irrelevant".

The December 2004 Report of the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change acknowledges that the CHR's capacity to fulfil its tasks has been "undermined by eroding credibility and professionalism".

It accordingly makes a number of short- and longer-term recommendations to ensure that human rights are at the centre of the debate on UN reform.

Among the Panel's proposals on strengthening the UN's human rights machinery the most controversial recommendation is that of universalising membership of the CHR, which currently comprises a panel of 53 states, each elected for a four-year term. The UN Advocacy Director for Human Rights Watch (HRW), Joanna Weschler, has stated that after "accurately diagnos[ing] the sorry state of the CHR", the Panel "proposes an inadequate cure". Both HRW and Amnesty International have proposed instead that membership should depend upon fulfilling criteria linked to a member state's human rights record, such as its ratification of the main human rights treaties, its record of reporting to UN human rights bodies and whether or not it has issued an open invitation to UN human rights investigators. Notably, 35 members of the current CHR have not issued such invitations; these include the current chair, Australia, and three permanent members of the Security Council - namely China, Russia and the US.

Neither model for CHR membership is without its flaws. There are obvious difficulties in devising a set of equitable membership criteria (not least of which is the risk of further politicisation). Equally, while there are clear advantages, in a system designed to protect universal human rights, of having a globally-representative Commission, the idea of universal membership raises a serious practical problem. In short, a larger, more diverse Commission may function even less effectively. "There's little that a 191-member body could accomplish during a six-week session - at best, it would be yet another talk shop," states Ms Weschler of HRW.

This, as the High-Level Panel recog-





nises, is a problem currently facing the UN General Assembly - the only UN body with universal membership. In fact, the Panel recommends streamlining the General Assembly into "smaller, more tightly focused committees" because its size impedes decision-making and this, in turn, "undermines its relevance".

So is universal membership the wrong route for reforming the CHR? Not necessarily, provided universalisation forms part of a package of wider reform. For example, if the CHR were - as the Panel also suggests - upgraded to a Human Rights Council, this could go some way towards overcoming the operational problems associated with universal membership. At the least, such a Council would be able to react to human rights crises as they occur, rather than waiting for the six-week annual session.

- **Membership of the CHR should be made universal.**
- **All members of the CHR should designate prominent and experienced human rights figures as the heads of their delegations.**
- **The CHR should be supported in its work by an advisory council or panel.**
- **The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights should prepare an annual report on the situation of human rights worldwide.**
- **The Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission should request that the High Commissioner report to them regularly on the implementation of all human rights-related provisions of Security Council resolutions.**
- **Funding for the Office of the High Commissioner should be increased, as the current rate of funding - at just 2% of the regular budget - is inadequate.**
- **In the longer term, member states should consider upgrading the CHR to a 'Human Rights Council' standing alongside ECOSOC and the Security Council.**

The apparent urgency of the need to reform the CHR does not, however, appear to be mirrored within the body itself: as the Commission's 61st annual session gets

underway (14 March–22 April 2005), reform of the UN's human rights machinery comes near the bottom of the provisional agenda: item 18(c) out of 21.

WHY THE UK SHOULD SIGN THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

According to the 2004 Foreign Office annual report on human rights, the UK has ratified every major international human rights treaty. However, this claim is undermined by the fact that the UK has not signed the UN's International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC), which entered into force in July 2003. What is more, the government shows no intention of changing its position, having stated that national policies already strike the "right balance between the need for immigration control and the protection of the interests and rights of migrant workers and their families". There is compelling evidence that this confidence is not justified: not only is existing UK legislation inadequate to protect migrant workers but the situation stands to get worse under the government's recently proposed five-year plan for asylum and immigration. Against this backdrop, the need to sign the MWC is becoming increasingly urgent.

Signing and ratifying the MWC would do much to improve the situation in the UK. The Convention extends basic human rights to all migrant workers and their families throughout the entire migration process, and it also proposes policies to promote equitable and lawful international migration. While documented migrant workers are accorded additional rights under the MWC, its provisions protect a core of human rights for all migrants, regardless of their legal status in the host country. The Convention includes measures to eliminate clandestine movements and trafficking and to prevent employment in irregular situations. Notably, article 21 prohibits the confiscation of migrant workers' identity documents: not only is there no such UK legislation but there is clear evidence that this practice is used in the UK to pressure workers into accepting sub-standard wages and poor working conditions. For example, 49% of domestic workers who registered between 2001 and 2003 with Kalayaan, an NGO that supports migrant domestic workers in the UK, reported

having had their passports taken by employers.

Under the government's new five-year plan for asylum and immigration, announced in February 2005, the situation for migrant workers and their families in the UK stands to get worse. The net effect of the proposals is to curtail legitimate labour migration routes: as the chief executive of the Immigration Advisory Service has argued, this will increase the likelihood that "more workers will be sucked into the economy via smugglers and traffickers, with appalling consequences of exploitation".

The implications of the government's current position on the MWC and migration also extend beyond the UK, most notably affecting the UK's capacity for international standard-setting in an area that is contingent upon the independent compliance of national governments. It is especially regrettable that the UK will lose the opportunity to take a positive lead on migration during 2005, when its presidencies of the G8 and the EU provide it with such a useful platform from which to effect real change in global human rights.

Write to your MP urging her or him to sign Early Day Motion (EDM) 430: Ratification of Migrant Workers Convention, tabled by Tom Brake MP





PEACE AND SECURITY

Alexander Ramsbotham and **Sarah Carter**, UNA-UK Peace and Security Programme

THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

In May 2005, the signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty will convene in New York for the NPT Review Conference, a major summit which is held every five years and which constitutes a key mechanism for appraising progress towards nuclear disarmament, identifying obstacles and finding solutions. Given the uncertainty currently characteris-

ing the non-proliferation regime, the May Conference is being viewed in many quarters as a defining point for the future of the NPT. It is therefore essential that both the UK and its international partners use the conference to reaffirm commitment to the NPT and that viable ways of overcoming the challenges to its success are identified and implemented.

Nuclear proliferation: the 21st century threat and the crisis of the NPT

The UN High-Level Panel warns of a possible "cascade of proliferation" of nuclear weapons in the future, as a result of the precarious state of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. This has extremely serious implications in today's climate of heightened fear of

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540

UNSCR 1540 was adopted unanimously on 28 April 2004. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, which deals with threats to international peace and security, it calls upon states to undertake the following actions:

- Refrain from providing any form of support to non-state actors who attempt to develop, manufacture, transfer or use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery.
- Adopt and enforce appropriate, effective national laws, which prohibit any non-state actor from manufacturing, acquiring, transporting or using WMD.
- Enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of WMD.
- Promote the universal adoption, full implementation and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of WMD.
- Renew and fulfil commitments to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to pursue and achieve common objectives in the area of non-proliferation.

*None of the obligations set forth in this resolution shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of state parties to the NPT or alter the responsibilities of the IAEA.

BETTER ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY

The Report recognises that if the Security Council is to develop better enforcement capabilities it must first enhance its ability to generate credible information about potential instances of proliferation. The following suggestions are made:

- Links between the IAEA and the Security Council should be strengthened.
- The Director-General of the IAEA should be invited by the Security Council to report to it twice-yearly on the status of safeguards and verification processes, as well as on any serious concerns they have regarding potential breaches of the NPT.
- The Security Council should also be prepared to deploy inspection capacities for suspected nuclear violations drawing on the capacities of the IAEA.

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

The PSI, agreed on 4 September 2003, predates UNSCR 1540 but is consistent with it. It is currently being addressed on a voluntary basis and represents a response to the increasing challenge posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). It aims to provide a more coordinated and effective means for impeding and preventing shipments of WMD, delivery systems and related materials. PSI participants are committed to undertake the following actions:

- Implement effective measures for interdicting the transfer or transport of WMD.
- Adopt streamlined procedures that enable rapid exchange of relevant information related to suspected proliferation activity.
- Dedicate appropriate resources and efforts to interdiction operations to achieve maximum coordination among participants.
- Work to strengthen relevant national legal authorities and international frameworks to accomplish these objectives.



SECURITY

international terrorism, as nuclear proliferation by states increases the availability of the material and technology necessary for a terrorist to acquire a nuclear weapon. The Panel's fundamental message on nuclear weapons is that "stopping the proliferation of such weapons - and their potential use by either state or non-state actors - must remain an urgent priority for collective security".

The role of the NPT

Nuclear proliferation is not a new security concern. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which entered into force in 1970, is the established global tool used to counter the threat of nuclear weapons.

The High-Level Panel's Report highlights that, so far, the NPT has proved crucial in preventing further proliferation and disarming existing nuclear weapons:

- "it bolstered a normative prohibition against the ownership, use and proliferation of [nuclear] weapons"
- "it ensured that states could benefit from nuclear technologies, but with oversight"
- "it reassured states about the capacities of neighbours and potential rivals, allowing them to avoid unnecessary arms races"

The changing security climate

However, the Treaty was built against a Cold War security backdrop, in which the international system was strategically governed by two superpowers locked in a nuclear arms race. The international security environment we face today is very different. Concerns over non-state actors, the diffusion of nuclear technology and a reduced international commitment to nuclear disarmament have served to alter significantly the nature of the nuclear threat. Worryingly, many states have responded to these changes by losing confidence in the Treaty as a means of protection against a nuclear attack. Indeed, the Panel warns, "we are approaching a point at which the erosion of the non-proliferation regime could become irreversible". The Panel highlights three key nuclear threats:

1. The covert and illegal development of full-scale nuclear weapons programmes by some countries, under cover of their NPT memberships, followed by the withdrawal from the Treaty at the point when they are ready to proceed with weaponisation
2. The erosion and possible collapse of the whole Treaty regime, and subsequent disintegration of its legal and normative constraints (approximately 40 states have the type of nuclear power capacity which would enable them to build nuclear weapons at relatively short notice)
3. The existence of large stockpiles of nuclear materials which heightens the risk of an increase in illicit trafficking, particularly among non-state actors

Ways Forward

The Panel's Report maintains that the challenge of prevention requires a global, multilayered response that both reduces the demand for, and supply of, nuclear weapons and enhances the capability of the Security Council to enforce non-proliferation agreements. A core ingredient to the success of this response is the responsibility of nuclear-weapons states to correct the lacklustre approach to disarmament which is currently undermining the diplomatic force of the NPT and hence its ability to constrain proliferation.

The Panel also recognises that the Security Council has a key role to play in developing better strategies for reducing the supply of nuclear material. It encourages the Security Council, acting under UNSCR 1540 (2004), to take collective action to reinforce observance of international law (see boxes on opposite page).

The Panel also recommends that states join the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which precedes but is in keeping with UNSCR 1540, and which has been identified as an effective measure for dealing with the threat of illicit and clandestine trading of nuclear material (see box on opposite page).

UNA's educational work on the Non-Proliferation Treaty is supported by a grant from the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust

Write to your MP urging her or him to sign Early Day Motion (EDM) 637: Nuclear Abolition Tour, tabled by Llew Smith MP



UN/DPI Photo



UN PEACEBUILDING

Afghanistan's future: building institutions

Nadia Shahbaz is of Afghan origin and is a University of Edinburgh post-graduate specialising in ethnic conflict and nation-building.

The Hindu Kush Mountains average 4,500 to 6,000 meters in height and sever vast regions of Afghanistan into isolated units. They are an impenetrable force, carving great divisions amongst the Afghan people and crafting a terrain both tough and fierce.

Institutions, by contrast, have consistently stood meek in Afghanistan. Yet, institutional development is central to building the conditions necessary for Afghanistan's reconstruction. Afghanistan's greatest challenge lies in its inability to connect the capital Kabul with its outlying provinces.

The failures of the central government and its national institutions (those that do exist) to permeate provincial life are significantly felt within economic, military, legal, educational, and political spheres.

Afghanistan's economic sector, specifically its agricultural market, continues to make the headlines. Agriculture is central to Afghanistan's economic development as it accounts for an estimated 52 percent of gross domestic product. However, the rapidly growing opium economy has left

Afghanistan on the verge of becoming a narcotic state, installing corruption and uneven distribution of resources. Alternative income opportunities must be made available, as opium production has become a strategy for survival. It is essential to note that standards within the agricultural market depend on the capacity of other institutions.

The newly established Afghan Nation Army (ANA) is an important national institution needed to reduce security concerns, control the opium trade and enliven Afghan identity; however it is continuously undermined by regional militias led by warlords. A little over 20,000 men are now serving, with 3,000-4,000 undergoing training, but Afghan President Hamid Karzai is aiming for a 70,000-strong force. The Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration project, executed by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), is attempting to disarm militias and provide them with skills to seek alternative sources of income, like joining the ANA. By demobilising militias, the ANA will be better equipped to make progress.

A legal framework - essential for carrying out the entire reconstruction operation - should be addressed by the Afghan Constitution. As it now stands, national law fails to reach areas outside Kabul; a mere 15 judicial offices are functioning in the provinces. Further coordination is required to militate against the lawlessness existing beyond Kabul.

Politically, there is the great challenge of legitimising the central government and managing the gulf between the centre and periphery. At present, traditional consultative bodies called *jirgas* deliberate affairs between national and local actors. Now, the UN Development Programme has been assisting the Afghan government in establishing an Afghan parliament, with elections to take place in early spring. Education and communication are necessary to redress Afghans' scepticism of democratic reform and their frustration at its initial outcomes, yet the President is restricted from communicating with the Afghan people due to a lack of resources.

If Afghanistan is to overcome adversity, it must look to its institutions.



Photo: PA Photos

BEYOND BEIJING

On the occasion of the 10-year review of the famous Beijing UN Conference on Women, **Zarin Hainsworth** of UNIFEM UK reflects on what progress has been made.

UN/DPI Photo

The Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women, held in 1995, was a watershed in the global women's movement, as women took ownership of the process and made their voices heard. For many of the 40,000 NGO participants their arrival in Beijing was the result of a series of struggles, but the empowering experience enabled them to continue their work with renewed zeal and feel real stakeholders in the outcome document.

This extraordinary document, neither a treaty nor a convention, and known as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PFA), was a forward-looking promise of a future providing women with access to human rights in 12 critical areas. It still provides a template for governments to chart achievements and note gaps and remains an inspiration for policy development and implementation.

In 2000, the process continued with a special session of the General Assembly to examine progress. Despite attempts to backtrack on the PFA, and with tremendous lobbying work by NGOs and more progressive governments, the Outcome Document held fast without moving the agenda forward.

2000 also saw the creation and ratification of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, an important international instrument not yet fully implemented. It recognises the immense importance of women in pre- and post-conflict regions. It has proved a useful tool and the motivation for the excellent UNIFEM report "Women, War and Peace".

Since Beijing, new and emerging issues have been added to the agenda including trafficking, age, and access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It has taken many long years for traditional practices which violate women such as 'honour killings', female genital mutilation, and rites against widows to be included in UN documents. These traditional practices are now recognised as unacceptable and harmful. Once ignored and excluded from statistics, the issue of widows has been brought to the fore by incredible lobbying efforts. NGOs

have continued to monitor other UN processes and produce shadow reports, providing an alternative view on achievements and gaps, but it has become increasingly obvious that those championing women must ensure gender is understood and well represented in all other human rights processes.

Much has been achieved since 1995 but women and men the world over continue to work for the equitable society for which every noble-minded person aspires. 2005 provides ample opportunity to work towards that goal as we celebrate Beijing +10. We must recognise, celebrate and utilise the resource which is more than half the world's population, to achieve a world able to attain its true potential of prosperity and peace.

The 12 critical areas of concern as listed in the PFA are:

- the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;
- inequalities and inadequacies in access to education and training;
- inequalities and inadequacies in access to health care and related services;
- violence against women;
- the effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation;
- inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources;
- inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels;
- insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;
- lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women;
- stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media;
- gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment; and
- persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child.

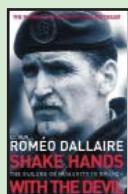


Write to your MP urging her or him to sign Early Day Motion (EDM) 675: Girls' education in developing countries, tabled by Helen Jackson MP



RESOURCES

RECENT BOOKS ON THE UN



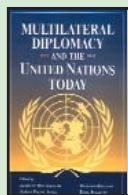
Shake Hands with the Devil: the Failure of Humanity in Rwanda

Lt Gen. Roméo Dallaire
Carroll and Graf Publishers
2005
£8.99



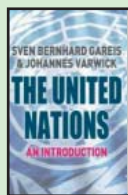
You, The People: the United Nations, Transitional Administrations and State-Building

Simon Chesterman
Oxford University Press
2004
£50.00



Multilateral Diplomacy and the United Nations Today, Second Edition

James P. Muldoon,
Jo Ann Fagot Aviel,
Richard Reitano
and Earl Sullivan
Westview Press
2005
£21.50



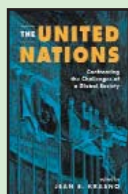
The United Nations: an Introduction

Sven Bernhard Gareis
and Johannes Varwick
Palgrave Macmillan
2005
£18.99 (pb), £55.00 (hb)



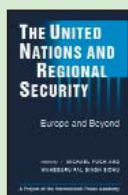
Security in the 21st Century: the United Nations, Afghanistan and Iraq

Alex Francesco Conte
Ashgate
2005
£50.00



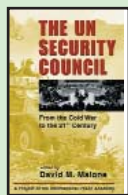
The United Nations: Confronting the Challenges of Global Security

Jean E. Krasno, editor
Lynne Rienner
2004
£17.99 (pb), £42.50 (hb)



The United Nations and Regional Security

Michael Pugh and
Waheguru Pal Singh
Sidhu, editors
Lynne Rienner
2003
£15.95 (pb), £35.50 (hb)



The UN Security Council: from the Cold War to the 21st Century

David M. Malone, editor
Lynne Rienner
2004
£21.50 (pb), £45.95 (hb)



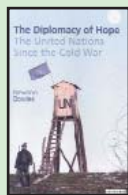
United Nations Global Conferences

Michael G. Schechter
Routledge
2005
£14.99 (pb), £65.00 (hb)



United Nations and Human Rights

Julie Mertus
Routledge
2005
£14.99 (pb), £65.00 (hb)



Diplomacy of Hope: the United Nations since the Cold War

Newton Bowles
IB Tauris
2005
£14.95

UN PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH UNA-UK

UNA has a number of hard copies of the following recent UN publications available for members. There is no charge for the publications, but we would appreciate a contribution to cover the cost of postage and packing, and staff time in distributing them:

- Report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, "A more secure world: our shared responsibility". This seminal report is essential reading for the national FCO/UNA consultation process (£2.50 each).
- UN Peace Operations: Year in Review 2004. This magazine chronicles the unprecedented surge in UN peacekeeping operations over the last year, and gives up to date facts and figures on each operation (£1 each).
- *Africa Renewal* January 2005. This issue of the magazine focuses on sexual violence, Darfur, electricity, elections and investment in Africa (50p each).
- "Beijing at Ten" Press Kit. This kit was prepared by the UN for the 10-year review of the Beijing Women's Conference, held in New York, Feb-Mar 2005 (£1 each).
- A3 poster of the table indicating progress on the MDGs, contained in the last issue of *New World* (50p each).
- Millennium Project Report, "Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals" (£4 each).

Please send orders to: Ed Brenton on 020 7766 3443 or membership@una-uk.org. Please make cheques payable to the United Nations Association.

We want to encourage the distribution of these publications and so offer the following discounts for bulk orders: if your order comes to £10 or more you can deduct 10% of the postage cost; for orders greater than £50, you may deduct 20%; and for orders over £100 you may deduct 30% of the postage cost.



NEW UN SYSTEM WEBSITES

28th Special Session of the General Assembly on 24 January 2005:
Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the
Nazi concentration camps

<http://www.un.org/ga/28special/index.html>

61st session of the Commission on Human Rights

(14 March - 22 April 2005)

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/sessions/61/index.htm>

Calendar of Conferences and Meetings 2005

<http://conf.un.org/DGAACS/Meetings.nsf/wByYear?OpenForm>

Millennium Project Report

"Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the
Millennium Development Goals"

<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/html/pressroom.shtm>

<http://unmp.forumone.com/>

Official Documents System (ODS)

<http://documents.un.org>

ODS, the premier full-text web resource for official United Nations
documentation, is available to the general public as of 31 December
2004. The ODS covers all types of official UN documentation.

ReliefWeb - redesigned website

<http://www.reliefweb.int/>

ReliefWeb is the world's leading online gateway to information (doc-
uments and maps) on humanitarian emergencies and disasters.

Resolutions and Statements of the Security Council 2005

(Press Release SC/8293, 17 January 2005)

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2005/sc8293.doc.htm>

International Conference on Biodiversity: Science and Governance

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France (24-28 January 2005)

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/news/biodivScGov.htm>

International Meeting for the 10-Year Review of the Barbados
Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Small
Island Developing States

(Port-Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005)

<http://www.un.org/smallislands2005>

World Economic Situation and Prospects 2005

<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess>

New UN DPI information available in electronic form

Africa Renewal: Vol. 18, No. 4, January 2005

<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol18no4/jan05.htm>

A more secure world: our shared responsibility, Report of the
Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges
and Change

<http://www.un.org/secureworld/report2.pdf>

A more secure world: our shared responsibility, Report of the
Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and
Change - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<http://www.un.org/secureworld/brochure.pdf>

Press Kit: International Year of Microcredit 2005

http://www.yearofmicrocredit.org/pages/reslib/reslib_recreading.asp

UNIDIR Publications

Building a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle
East: Global Non-Proliferation Regimes and Regional Experiences

http://www.unidir.ch/bdd/fiche-ouvrage.php?ref_ouvrage=92-9045-168-8-en

Peace in the Middle East: P2P and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

http://www.unidir.org/bdd/fiche-ouvrage.php?ref_ouvrage=92-9045-169-6-en

Disarmament forum 1, 2005: Science, technology and the CBW
regimes

http://www.unidir.org/bdd/fiche-periodique.php?ref_periodique=1020-7287-2005-1-en

Trade, Finance and Commerce

Prospects for Foreign Direct Investment and the Strategies of
Transnational Corporations, 2004-2007 (UNCTAD)

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/iteit20048_en.pdf

World Health Organization (WHO)

Bulletin of the World Health Organization: Volume 82, Number
12, December 2004

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/82/1/en/>

Non-Governmental Liaison Service

NGLS Go Between 105, October-December 2004

<http://www.un-ngls.org/gobetween.htm>

NGLS Roundup 117, November 2004

HIV/AIDS: Developing New Fronts Against an Extraordinary Crisis
<http://www.un-ngls.org/documents/pdf/roundup/RU117-AIDS.pdf>

For more information on UN publications contact:

*Regional United Nations Information Centre (RUNIC) for Western
Europe - LIBRARY*

Residence Palace, Quartier Rubens

Block C2 (8th floor), Rue de la Loi 155/Wetstraat

B -1040 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2 7888 462 Fax: +32 (0)2 7888 485

Email: info@runic-europe.org

Website: www.runic-europe.org

THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL REPORT HIT

The Launch of the High-Level Panel Report

Tony Blair, Jack Straw and Kofi Annan launched the High-Level Panel report at the Banqueting House in London on 10 February 2005.

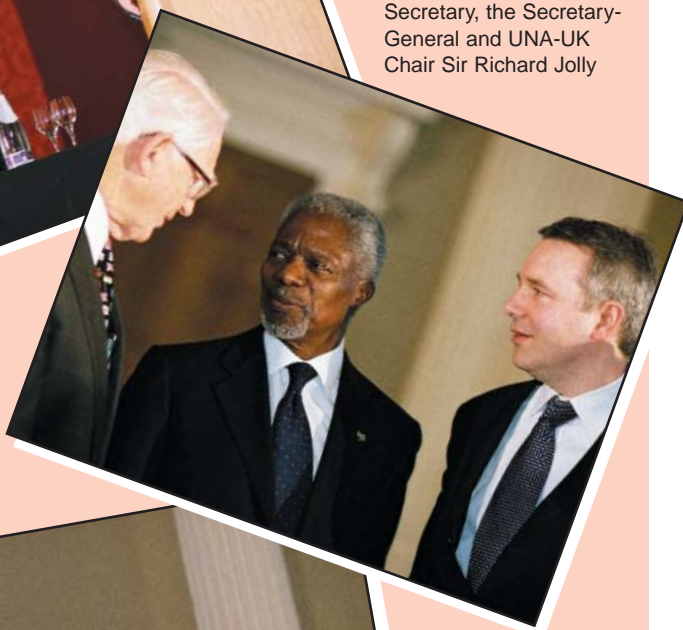
Right: Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, Dame Margaret Anstee and the UN Secretary-General



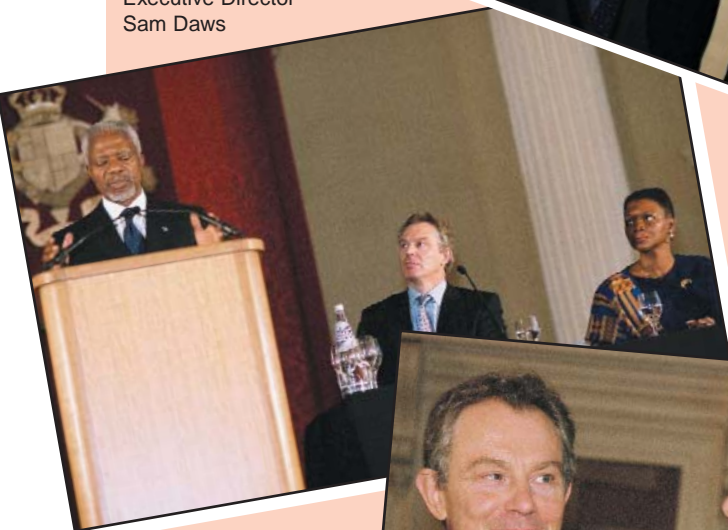
Left: The Foreign Secretary, the Secretary-General and UNA-UK Chair Sir Richard Jolly



Right: UNA-UK Chair Sir Richard Jolly, the Secretary-General Kofi Annan and UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws



Left: The UN Secretary-General, Prime Minister Tony Blair and Baroness Amos



Right: Tony Blair and Sam Daws



The December 2004 Report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change has been described as both "Kofi Annan's best legacy from what is already regarded as one of the most innovative and open of recent secretary-generalships" and "the most important strategic document the UN has published since 1945". The significance of the Report has not been lost on the UK government, who officially launched the Report in the UK on 10 February 2005 at the Banqueting House, in Whitehall, London. This event was attended by both UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, both of whom delivered speeches voicing robust support for the Report's proposals.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was also present to make a statement, formally announcing that UNA-UK has been tasked with organising on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a series of public debates on the Report. UNA Chair Sir Richard Jolly responded eloquently on behalf of UNA-UK, and participated in a panel alongside UNA Vice-President Lord David

Of fundamental importance to the success of these public debates are the break-out discussion groups, which provide an opportunity for more detailed consideration of the individual issues addressed by the High-Level Panel. The titles of the discussion groups correspond to the major foci of the Report and are as follows:

1. Collective security and the challenge of prevention
2. Collective security and the use of force
3. A more effective United Nations for the 21st century

All contributions made during the break-out discussion groups are recorded by a UNA notetaker. At the end of each event, the individual summaries provided by each notetaker are collated into a unitary document, for the eventual incorporation into a 100-page report, to be published and submitted to the FCO prior to the summit in September. A four-page executive summary will also be produced. Interim reports, highlighting the key issues raised throughout the process, will be sent to the FCO on an ad hoc basis.



THE ROAD

Hannay, Dr Gareth Evans and Robert Badinter, all of whom were leading architects of the Report.

In a testament to the seriousness with which the UK government regards the High-Level Panel's recommendations, the FCO has dedicated a special team to coordinate government activity in relation to the Report. UNA-UK is working closely with this group in order to ensure that the goals of the public debates are achieved. The objectives of the consultation process are two-fold: 1) to generate awareness of the Report's recommendations and 2) to facilitate public input into the UK's response to the Report, as the government formulates its position for the UN summit this autumn.

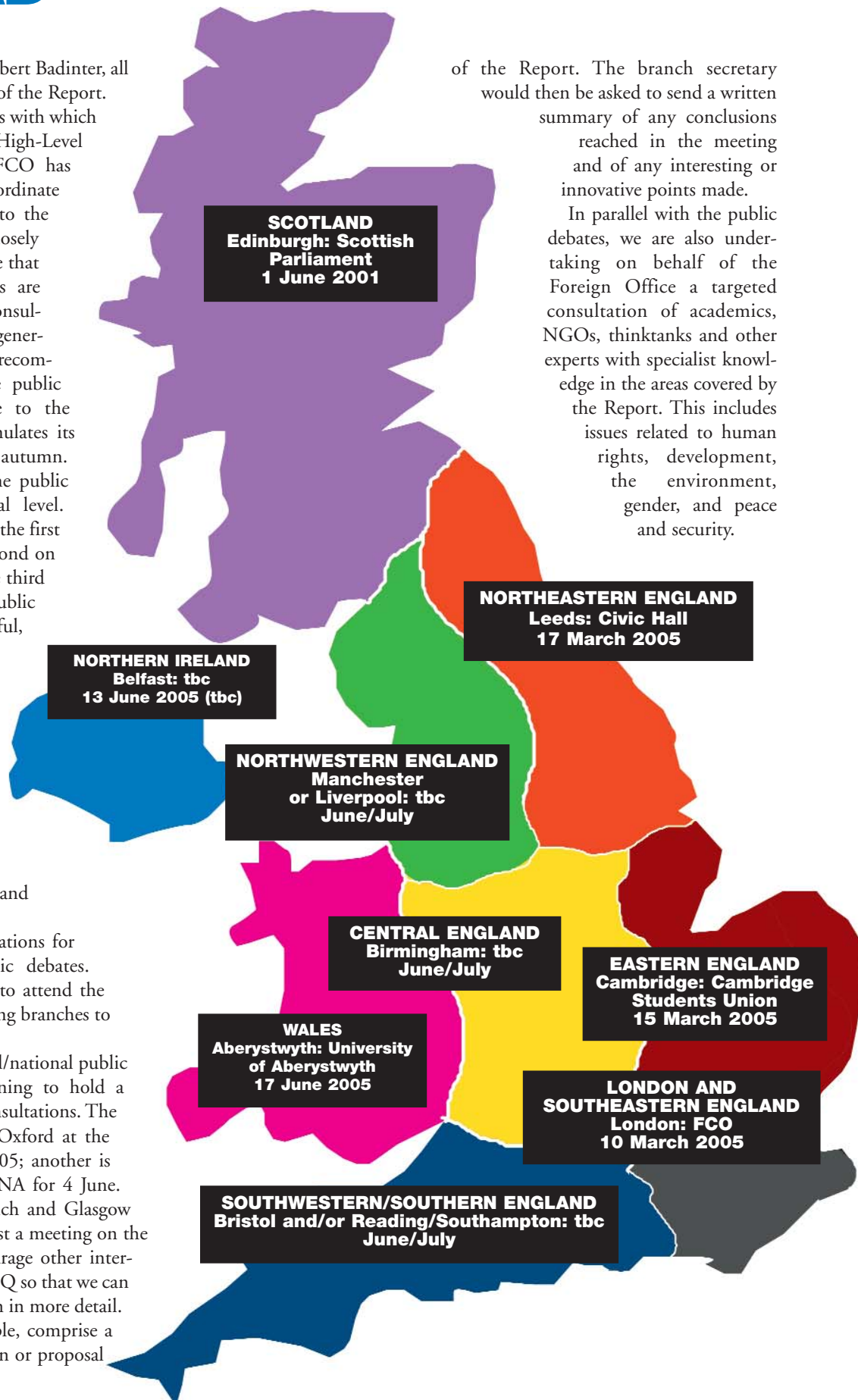
UNA-UK will be holding nine public debates at the regional/national level. Thus far, three have taken place - the first in London on 10 March; the second on 15 March in Cambridge; and the third in Leeds on 17 March. These public debates were all highly successful, with Bill Rammell MP, FCO minister with responsibility for the UN, speaking at each event and devoting a substantial amount of time to answering questions from the audience. Lord David Hannay delivered an expert summary of the Report in Cambridge, and an experienced panel of academics contributed their expertise and knowledge to the event in Leeds.

The map shows dates and locations for all nine regional/national public debates. Don't worry if you were unable to attend the initial debates - we are encouraging branches to run further events in all regions.

In addition to the nine regional/national public debates, UNA-UK is also planning to hold a series of up to 20 sub-regional consultations. The first of these will take place in Oxford at the Bodleian Library on 20 May 2005; another is being planned by Harpenden UNA for 4 June. UNA branches in Exeter, Norwich and Glasgow have also expressed a desire to host a meeting on the High-Level Panel, and we encourage other interested branches to contact UNA HQ so that we can discuss the format of participation in more detail. A branch event could, for example, comprise a single speaker on a specific section or proposal

of the Report. The branch secretary would then be asked to send a written summary of any conclusions reached in the meeting and of any interesting or innovative points made.

In parallel with the public debates, we are also undertaking on behalf of the Foreign Office a targeted consultation of academics, NGOs, thinktanks and other experts with specialist knowledge in the areas covered by the Report. This includes issues related to human rights, development, the environment, gender, and peace and security.





The UNA @60 Appeal

Challenges and opportunities

The United Nations Association this year celebrates its 60th anniversary. 2005 is also a pivotal year for the United Nations. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has stated that the world now faces a fork in the road, "a moment no less decisive than 1945 itself, when the United Nations was founded". Recent events have shown that humanity faces many challenges which cannot be solved by any one nation alone. There is an opportunity for a renewed UN to provide leadership for a comprehensive system of human security, which meets the needs of all countries, rich and poor.

UNA has a vital role to play in the United Kingdom in supporting and strengthening a renewed UN. Over the last 60 years UNA-UK has been at the forefront of education about the United Nations in schools and universities throughout the country. We have lobbied successive governments to seek for the UN to be at the centre of British foreign, development and defence policy. We have raised millions of pounds for the work of UN specialised agencies such as UNICEF, WFP and the WHO, and for UN mine clearance worldwide. Today, with the Secretary-General's new blueprint for strengthening the UN, 'In Larger Freedom', we have a ready-made agenda for action, replete with proposals to address the challenges to development, peace and human rights. UNA-UK has also served as a supportive but critical friend of the UN, calling for reforms which will strengthen the institution, and which will help it live up to the ideals enshrined in the UN Charter.

UNIDPL Photos



We need your help

The UNA Trust exists as an independent body to educate and fundraise in support of the UN. The Trust traditionally supports the charitable work of UNA. Your donation to the UNA Trust will make a real difference. We need your help so that UNA can bring its message to a new generation of young people. We need to promote the UN in an era of challenges, old and new, from climate change to terrorism. And we need to ensure that the government's actions match its rhetoric in the areas of peace, human rights and development.

We are turning to you, as a valued member and supporter of UNA's work, at the very start of this appeal. We have had marvelous support over the years from members, sponsors, trusts, the government, companies, trade unions, religious groups, NGOs and many other friends of UNA. Once this initial appeal has been launched we will seek to approach others, and in the process, we hope, increase our membership.

Just £3 a month will go a long way towards helping rejuvenate UNA. You will find in this issue of *New World* a form that you can use to make a regular donation to the UNA Trust by direct debit. If you are a UK taxpayer, and you tick the gift aid box, we can claim back from the government 28p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you.

Help make your membership fees go further

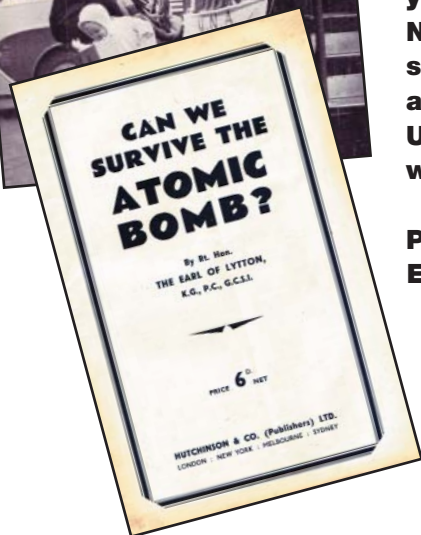
In order to simplify matters for donors of £9 or more per month, the UNA Trust will pay the standard membership subscription to the Association on your behalf. If you are a UK taxpayer and donate £9 or more per month, we are able to claim an extra 28% on your whole donation – even including your membership subscription.

Please find enclosed in this *New World* a UNA@60 appeal form. This should be sent to the UNA Trust at the following address. No postage stamp is necessary.

UNA Trust, FREEPOST SW211, London SW1A 2YZ

Thank you for your support.

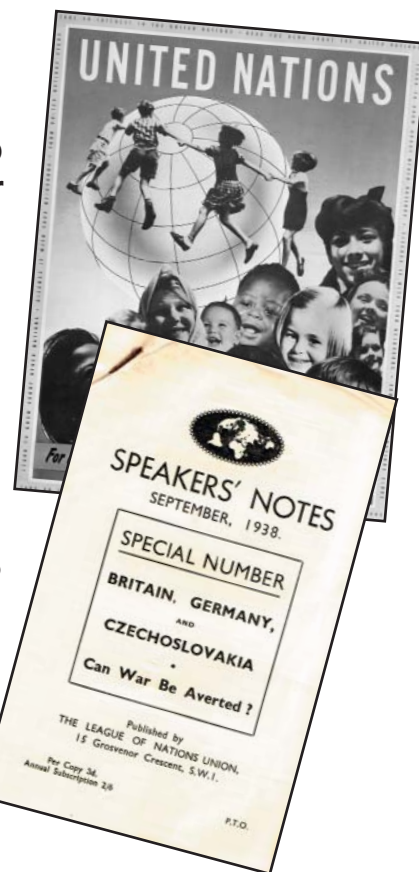
Sam Daws, Executive Director, UNA-UK



BRINGING UNA'S HISTORY TO LIFE

We have received from members some wonderful memorabilia covering the last 60 years of UNA and the UN. We are still eager to receive personal anecdotes and photographs from members active in UNA in the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. Some of you may even remember the League of Nations Union! Perhaps you can recall some colourful characters from the past, attended UNA's Annual Ball, or served as a UNA volunteer in a developing country. We would love to hear from you.

Please send your memories and photos to Ed Brenton, UNA Membership Officer, at UNA, 3 Whitehall Court, or by e-mail to membership@una-uk.org. We will include some of these early photos and reminisces in a special October to December 2005 issue of *New World*.



UNA PROFILE: THE E-BRANCH

In each issue of New World we will seek to highlight innovative work being undertaken by a UNA member, branch, region or national UNA. This time we profile Enfield & The Barnets UNA. Francis Sealey outlines how the branch is using new technology to enhance its outreach work and to influence MPs.

The Enfield UNA was formed shortly after the 2001 attack on the twin towers in New York. Some of us felt it important to put pressure on our local MPs to ensure that, in this changing security environment, respect for internationalism and the rule of law remained paramount. So, over the last three years, we have developed a number of activities to further these aims including amalgamating with the Barnets UNA just about a year ago!

MPWatch

How to interact with our local MPs and other decision makers was the critical question. Our answer was to launch a website called MPWatch for questioning MPs online, publishing their answers and encouraging debate. This has proved very successful: all four local MPs have participated and the site has now expanded to involve MEPs, as well

as Assembly members and local Councillors. We have now developed this further by publishing a Weblog (or Blog) called "21st Century Vision" which allows us to post comments daily. It regularly appears in search engines and the hits on the site are growing exponentially.

Website: <http://www.mpwatch.net/>
21st Century Weblog: <http://mpwatch.blogs.com/>

Realtime Meetings

Developing the website has meant that we have built up a significant database of contacts that we use to publicise our postings. We have been using this as a resource for attracting audiences to actual meetings where local MPs participate in a Questiontime. Often these events take the form of a debate with others we invite to share the platform with the MPs. We try to invite each of the four MPs at least once a year!

Civil Society Forum

We also convene meetings for about 16 to 20 local organisations, with the aim of developing a Civil Society Forum to serve as a link between local action and global issues. This is



in keeping with the UN's view that non-governmental organisations can play a vital role in world development. We envision the Forum developing into an extensive community network with UNA playing a leading role.

The Civil Society Forum is also planning to hold a number of hustings in advance of the expected general election this year, and our local UNA is also planning to publish an online hustings to complement this.

Book Group & Other Activities

Much of the work we do is educational. We have carried this forward by starting a local book group where we choose a book to discuss every two months. We publicise the group on the website Meet UP, and we feel that this model could be applied to London.

Meetup Book Group:
<http://bookcrossing.meetup.com/611>



UNA BRANCHES IN UN60

Events and activities roundup

This list of events is not exhaustive. To be added to our regular email bulletin of upcoming events, write to membership@una-uk.org

Future events and activities:

Scotland

On 19 and 20 November 2005 UNA Scotland will join the Findhorn Foundation in a UN60 event.

The intention is to explore avenues of collaboration for implementing the UN Millennium Development Goals in the UK, to share aspects of our current work with the UN system and to create new synergies and partnerships.

The Findhorn Foundation has been known internationally since 1962 for its experiments with new models for holistic and sustainable living. Today it is at the heart of the largest international community in the UK and the centre of a rapidly developing ecovillage. The Findhorn Foundation is a founding member of the Global Ecovillage Network, has DPI associative status at the United Nations and works with UNITAR, UNCHS, UNESCO and other intergovernmental agencies in educating and developing policy guidance for sustainable development and for delivery of village-scale sustainability programmes.

You can read more about these issues at www.ecovillage.org and www.findhorn.org. Alternatively, please e-mail Francoise Ducroz at fdz7@yahoo.com, or May East at mayeast@findhorn.org. May East can also be reached on 01309 692 011.

Haslemere

To mark UN60 Haslemere UNA is holding a play writing competition for young people under the age of 18. The theme should cover some aspect of the United Nations, the cast should be limited to seven people and the play should run from between 20 and 60 minutes. There is a fee of £1.50 per entry. The winner will receive a dramatised reading by professional actors and a cheque for £50. The closing date for submissions is 1 December 2005. For more information please e-mail frances-jess@clara.co.uk.

Southampton

For the 40th anniversary of the UN, Southampton Branch planted a commemorative tree in the town park, but unfortunately it died. We arranged to plant a replacement for the 50th anniversary; after a few years that also died! So, this year we are planning to plant 60 trees, not in a Southampton park, but in Rajasthan, India. The scheme 'Trees for Life' is administered by a charity called 'Wells for India' which is based in Winchester. Working with Indian NGO partners and villagers in the Thar Desert and Arivali Hills, 'Wells for India' wants to promote a range of reforestation measures to help water harvesting. For £10 a tree can be dedicated and a certificate sent. We hope that these trees will be a more lasting memorial to the work of UNA.

West Oxfordshire

At 8.00pm on 19 April 2005, Eleanor Robson, a local resident and an expert on Iraqi classical artefacts, will speak on what has happened to these priceless treasures in the two years since the invasion of Iraq.

On 7 June (tbc) Greg Barrow, the World Food Programme's representative in London, will speak about the work of WFP in and beyond the tsunami crisis.

Tunbridge Wells

At 7.30pm on 11 April 2005 Mike Handcock will speak on the Ukraine at a public meeting at Friends Meeting House, Grosvenor Park in Tunbridge Wells. For further details please call Alan Bullion on 01892 549 871.

Wales

UNA Wales has been responsible for the maintenance of the National Garden of Peace since its creation by international volunteer workcamps in the 1980s. The Garden is home to many commemorative trees and plaques and these will be joined on 15 May 2005, International Conscientious Objectors' Day, by a

memorial to conscientious objectors - the first of its kind in Wales. The memorial will be a boulder engraved with the following words:

"If the right to life is the first of all human rights, being the one on which all other rights depend, the right to refuse to kill must be the second".

UNA Wales will hold a colourful information stall in one of Cardiff's main shopping centres to mark UN Day on 24 October 2005, which will also see the launch of a new educational resource. Aimed at secondary school teachers and university lecturers, the bilingual resource, 'U what?!/U beth?!', provides an introduction to the UN system, and materials to run mini-MUNGA or Security Council sessions. This valuable resource will also be available online at www.wcia.org.uk/UNAWales.

Westminster

On 16 May 2005 at 6.30pm Judge Rosalyn Higgins will deliver a talk on "The International Court of Justice in a rapidly changing world". This event, co-hosted by the School of Oriental and African Studies, will take place in the lecture theatre in the Brunei Gallery, SOAS. A reception will follow. Admission is free, but tickets are required in advance and can be acquired through the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy via e-mail at rb37@soas.ac.uk.

On 1 June from 9.30am Westminster UNA will co-host a conference entitled "Threats, Challenges and Change" at the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall, London. As part of the conference, General Satish Nambiar, a member of the UN High-Level Panel, will deliver the Folke Bernadotte Lecture, and a ceremony to commemorate International Peacekeepers' Day will occur at 1.00pm. For details write to 'Peacekeeper Day', 61 Sedlescombe Road, London SW6 1 RE, or e-mail davidwardrop@lineone.net.

Shipley and Baildon

On Saturday, 25 June 2005 UNA North East Region is meeting in Saltaire, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, at the invitation of Shipley & Baildon Branch. This celebration, entitled "The United Nations and the world we live in", will commemorate UN60 at the United Reformed Church - an 'architectural gem'. It is hoped that,



provided permission is received from the police, we will be able to process from the church up the hill to Victoria Hall for a meeting to be addressed by a representative of WaterAid. There will also be an opportunity in the afternoon to join an organised tour of Saltaire; to book a place please contact Paddy Beck on 01904 620 089 or johnbeck@doctors.org.uk.

All are welcome. For further information please contact Branch Secretary Thelma de Leeuw on 01274 481 645 or tdel@globalnet.co.uk.

Past events and activities:

Edinburgh

On 11 January 2005 UNA Chair Sir Richard

Jolly delivered a National Museums of Scotland lecture entitled 'The UN at 60: the hidden record of success'. This highly successful event was organised by UNA Scotland and attended by approximately 150 people.

Wales

On 26 January 2005, UNA Wales hosted, at its historic base at the Temple of Peace in Cardiff, an event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Representatives from the world's major faiths were joined by Wales's First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM, in a commemorative ceremony, at which the Armenian genocide was remembered alongside the Jewish Holocaust. Please see above for details on UNA Wales's essay competition on the

Armenian genocide.

Lancaster University

On 24 February 2005 Luckshan Abeysuriya, UNA Board member, gave a talk on "Global Security and our Shared Responsibility", and a lively discussion ensued on the renewal of the UN.

Nottingham Branch

Nottingham UNA's annual Quiz Night on 9 March 2005 was a great success: nine teams took part and filled the upper room of the Duke of Cambridge in Mapperley. It was a very lively evening and a good time was had by all. The amount raised for Branch funds was nearly £200. Our grateful thanks to Janet and Mike Pates who organise this event annually.

LOBBY 2005

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LOBBY
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5

Human
Security
through the
UN Millennium
Declaration

Thanks to the dedication of the participants, the support of over 60 organisations, and the expertise and eloquence of the speakers, LOBBY 2005 was a great success. The strong level of attendance, representing a broad spectrum of the UK public, ranging from veteran activists to secondary school students, quickly exceeded the capacity of the Thatcher Room, necessitating a shift to a larger room.

Introductions were given by Tony Colman MP, Sam Daws and Sir Richard Jolly. Salil Shetty, Director of the UN Millennium Campaign, then gave an illuminating overview on the Millennium Development Goals, with a PowerPoint presentation on campaigns to promote the MDGs; Bruce Kent, Vice-President of CND, then roundly denounced the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament; and finally Maniza Ntekim, Parliamentary Officer of Amnesty International UK, delivered an eloquent and measured account of the dilemma facing the UN's human rights machinery.

Many MPs and Peers were also in attendance: Baroness Whitaker kindly provided an impromptu expert contribution on UN human rights mechanisms, and Dr Evan Harris, MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, also shared his thoughts on the subject. The most persistent parliamentarian was Roger Casale, FCO Personal Private Secretary and MP for Wimbledon, who made several attempts to meet constituent Alison Williams before finally succeeding.

A full report of the Lobby, including transcripts of all the speeches and biographies of the speakers, can be viewed on UNA's website. Thanks to all of you for your active commitment in taking the UN Millennium Agenda to Parliament, and for holding the government to account on these vital international issues.

Veronica Lie



Photo: UNA



LETTERS

Reform of the General Assembly

27 February 2005

Dear Editors,

Whenever the question of reform of the UN is discussed, emphasis, rightly, is placed on the need for changes in the Security Council. The recent High-Level Panel report is no exception and contains a prominent section on discussing changes in that body. On the General Assembly, having said that the "General Assembly has lost vitality and often fails to focus effectively on the issues of the day", it goes on to comment on wasted time in discussing minutiae or topics outpaced by real-world events, but its only suggestions for change in the "main deliberative organ of the United Nations" are procedural in nature. It talks of its "unique legitimacy" without explaining how that is defined.

Presumably this legitimacy derives from article 2.1 of the Charter which states that the "Organisation is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members", since each member is represented on the General Assembly and has one vote. The Orwellian nature of this "sovereign equality" is soon revealed in chapter V of the Charter, which deals with the Security Council, where article 23 defines the permanent members and article 27.3 defines the need for an affirmative vote by the permanent members on all matters apart for procedural issues. So the permanent members are "more equal than others".

Of course this inequality reflected the realities of the world in 1945, when the big five held the major military strength - to a degree they still do. But the constitution of the General Assembly fails to reflect any such reality, or the reality of the population of its members, or the reality of their gross national products. Nauru, a minute speck in the SW Pacific with a population of less than 13,000, a tiny GNP and no military might has an equal say and vote in the General Assembly as such giants as China, with a population a million times greater. Is it, therefore, surprising that the debates

in the Assembly so often are time wasting and deal with trivia? They provide a unique chance for tiny countries to hold forth and act as if they were as important and mighty as the great powers who have the same rights in the Assembly.

Surely there is a need to look more deeply at the structure of the General Assembly and to consider seriously some way to make its constitution, where the nation-state is the unit of membership, more representative of the world outside? This is, of course, not a new idea but after 60 years surely its time has come.

A recent pamphlet by Georges Berhoin and Peter Luff, entitled *The Reform of the United Nations*, has some interesting suggestions which bear study. They suggest, for a start, that the UN could benefit by looking at the development of the European Union, which has grown in size and importance from the original six, who signed up to the European Coal and Steel Community, to 25 nations now, with an elected Parliament and a possible constitution. They duck the issue of changing the General Assembly and postulate the creation of a new "Parliamentary Assembly" alongside it, with its membership coming from existing parliamentarians from member states. It would not initially be democratically elected but would, they say, have some broadly democratic legitimacy because of the relationship of its members to the people of the world -- not their governments. This admittedly imperfect model could, with time, develop into a more representative body.

I am not sure whether the creation of an extra UN body is a good idea but it could overcome the objections to change in the General Assembly. Or maybe the model could be applied as the template for changes in the Assembly itself. Either way I think that we in UNA should be giving serious consideration to the need for changes, beyond the procedural, in the General Assembly, with a view to restoring that "lost vitality".

Yours faithfully,

HAROLD STERN
Ealing, London

"Bingo! UNA has become part of the circus"

10 January 2005

Dear Editors,

In the January issue of *New World*, there was no mention anywhere in the magazine of the horrific death toll inflicted on the Iraqis by 'coalition' forces: 100,000 dead and over half of them women and children. You rightly express "outrage" at the campaign to smear Kofi Annan over the Oil-for-Food programme. But it originates from the same source that is trying to smear Mohamed El Baradei, Director-General of the IAEA, the source which the UK government stands "shoulder to shoulder" with, i.e. the Bush administration.

Which brings us to the 'joined-up' government initiatives. UNA "is being consulted on policy formulation by two new-government programmes". These are 'Countries at Risk of Instability' and the 'Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit.' The general point to note is that both of them place the UK at the centre. This is entirely in line with US-UK strategy of marginalising the UN as the first authority for peace and security and human rights. The specific point about the 'Countries at Risk of Instability' programme is the key fact that the UK is the WORLD's second largest exporter of weapons. Did anybody ask Jack Straw when the government was going to ban arms' exports? The availability of weapons is one of the chief causes of instability. As for the 'Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit' that comes under the heading of '100,000 and the International Criminal Court.'

UNA is not being "consulted": it is being assimilated. It is being lured, inveigled, and sucked into an agenda and a process that have been predetermined - triangulation is the key tool of government policy. And by becoming a part of the process UNA is not only effectively contained it can even become a government asset. "Look," the government says, "We have consulted the much respected United Nations Association" (so even UNA can't be seen to complain). And, Bingo! UNA has become



part of the circus, yet another photo opportunity for the government media.

Year after year the same items with regard to the UK government come up in UNA's Policy Statement and, like the stage-managed parliamentary lobbies, come to nothing. The breathtaking arrogance and ease with which the Prime Minister swept aside the protestations of millions over Iraq, not just in this country but around the world, was an object lesson in the use of power. No doubt the next issue of *New World* will be dominated by the devastation of the tsunami, but don't let it wash away the victims of power in Iraq.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHEN JACKSON
Bexhill-on-Sea, West Sussex
[edited for length]

After the Tsunami

24 February 2005

Dear Editors,

In considering the tsunami disaster and the appalling loss of life and

destruction involved, the words of commiseration and sympathy coming from around the world are heartfelt and appropriate. So also is the remarkable response by nations and individuals. This aid and financial support will continue because it is in the nature of people at these times to give. Even so, this response is truly remarkable.

The tsunami is a comparatively recent tragedy, but the older tragedy of poverty still exists. In many parts of the world there exist living conditions which have been seen in photographs for many years and which reflect the entrenched deprivation of many peoples. Aid agencies have campaigned for more than 50 years for funds, and people have responded as always, yet few rich nations have responded well to the United Nations' appeal for 0.7% of gross national products to be allocated to the development of the so-called 'Third World'. The 'aid' that has been given, moreover, is expected to be paid back and this has engendered unsustainable debt burdens which retard chances of development. Many of these countries are the same ones

now dealing with the devastation of the tsunami. Now is the time for debt relief.

The success of the call to 'make poverty history' depends on comprehensive debt relief. It is fitting that we should make a new start at a time when feelings are high and understanding is strong. But when this disaster has passed from the headlines will the aid that is coming now cease? Will it revert to the past and the call of so many years, or will we see a new and enlightened world?

In the global village we are all neighbours - not just today, but tomorrow, and tomorrow.

ALEX HAWKINS
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Editor's note:

UNICEF-UK has asked us to convey their deep appreciation for the generous donations received from UNA members in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster.

NOTICE BOARD

RAF Charitable Trust

The Royal Air Force Charitable Trust is marking UN60 with a display of aircraft from around the world which have seen service in UN humanitarian and peacekeeping operations since 1945. The Royal International Air Tattoo will take place at RAF Fairford on 16-17 July 2005. The United Nations in New York is assisting with the Tattoo, and UNA-UK has been asked to provide a display. For more information please see www.rafcte.com.

Mr J. J. Waterson

The UNA Trust is seeking to locate Mr J.J. Waterson, a former donor to the UNA Trust. UNA has not heard from Mr Waterson for almost a decade. If friends or family have any information, please contact Ajay Vasa at avasa@una-uk.org.

Apologies

Apologies to Peter Greaves for omitting his name from his excellent review of Mayer Hillman's book *How to Save the Planet* in the last issue of *New World*.

UNA Directory

Main telephone number	020 7766 3444
Fax number	020 7930 5893
Main e-mail address	info@una-uk.org
Website	www.una-uk.org

General enquiries & information

info@una-uk.org	020 7766 3444
--	---------------

Executive Director

daws@una-uk.org	020 7766 3451
--	---------------

Membership enquiries & renewals

membership@una-uk.org	020 7766 3443
--	---------------

Fundraising

fundraising@una-uk.org	020 7766 3447
--	---------------

Peace & security programme

aramsbotham@una-uk.org	020 7766 3446
--	---------------

Policy enquiries & advocacy coordination

vlie@una-uk.org	020 7766 3451
--	---------------

UNESCO UK Commission

lleung@una-uk.org	020 7766 3490
--	---------------

Adopt-A-Minefield

Main telephone number	020 7925 1500
Fax number	020 7925 1900
Main e-mail address	info@landmines.org.uk
Website	www.landmines.org.uk



MESSAGES FROM UNA'S HONORARY PRESIDENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2005

The Rt. Hon. Charles Kennedy, M.P.
Ross, Skye & Inverness West



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Sam Daws
United Nations Association
3 Whitehall Court
London
SW1A 2ET

24th January 2005

Dear Mr Daws

I am delighted to send my support to the United Nations Association Annual Conference and 60th anniversary.

I firmly believe that no nation and no people can stand alone in the 21st century and the best way to solve international problems is through international agreement, international law and international co-operation.

That is why the Liberal Democrats are so committed to the United Nations, to NATO and to the European Union and why we place them at the heart of our approach to international affairs. And that is why the work of the UNA is so important and I am proud to be an Honorary President of the Association.

I wish the United Nations Association and conference delegates every success for the conference and in all of our work to seek global solutions through the UN.

THE RT HON MICHAEL HOWARD QC



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Sam Daws Esq.,
Executive Director,
United Nations Association of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
3 Whitehall Court,
London SW1A 2ET

Dear Mr Daws

I am delighted to send my best wishes for your Conference in this, the 60th anniversary year of the United Nations.

Anniversaries are always times to take stock, and none more so than this. The United Nations has achieved much in the last 60 years. Today, it is important that the UN fulfils its potential. And it is through change and reform that it can best adapt to the new realities of the twenty first century. Its friends, including the UNA, have a key role to play in this debate.

Apart from its vital role in rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan, the UN faces challenges such as nuclear weapons proliferation in North Korea, the nuclear programme in Iran, war in the Congo, atrocities in Darfur and a politically-created humanitarian disaster in Zimbabwe. It must show that it is capable of addressing such issues.

We support reform of the Security Council to make it more effective — and less often gridlocked. We also welcome plans, recently set out in the recent UN High Level Panel Report, for the UN to engage in preventive action to address many of the challenges of today's world.

It is vital that Britain plays a central role in the UN, both as a member of the Security Council and as a leading advocate for reform. Such a role is one to which I am firmly committed.

Meanwhile I am sure it will be a most productive and stimulating Conference.

Michael Howard
MICHAEL HOWARD

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

I am sorry I am not able to be with you today for the United Nations Association's Annual Conference celebrating the 60th anniversary of the UNA.

Much has happened since your last conference in Reading. We have seen elections in Afghanistan and Iraq and we have seen both the tragedy of the 'tsunami and the remarkable response of the international community. The UN played the leading role on each of these issues.

2005 will be another important year for the United Nations.

The Security General's report on the High Level Panel and the Millennium Development Goals will be addressed at the UN Millennium Review Summit in September. This provides a real opportunity to bring the international community together around a common agenda at the United Nations.

The Panel has now reported and I am delighted that the UNA-UK will be assisting the Government in holding a series of public debates in cities throughout the United Kingdom, following the launch of the Report on 10 February in the presence of the Secretary-General.

The Report has a simple, but fundamental premise: we all share responsibility for each other's security. The threats we face today are interlinked: poverty, disease and environmental degradation, as well as terrorism and the proliferation of WMD. We need a strong UN to deal with them. Most importantly, the Security Council must take responsibility for dealing with the threats facing the international community in the 21st Century.

I am particularly struck by the Panel's core assessment that development and security are interlinked. One cannot be achieved without the other.

In that context I also welcome the UN report, from Jeffrey Sachs, on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and what needs to be done to achieve them. The report demonstrates that aid works. It calls for action now. That is the aim of our G8 Presidency this year. We cannot delay action to save the millions of lives lost each year from preventable disease, poverty and conflict. And if we don't act now, the problems will get harder to solve, not easier.

The UK, as President of the EU and the G8, will have a vital role to play at the Summit. We will do our utmost to make it a success.

I wish you all the best for your conference.

Tony Blair

April 2005



ADOPT-A-MINEFIELD UK

UNA-UK has been proud to host the Adopt-A-Minefield campaign in the UK since 2001. The Adopt-A-Minefield campaign was founded by UNA-USA and the licence from them to operate the campaign in the UK is due to expire in August 2005.

In recent months UNA-UK and UNA-USA have been reviewing how this partnership has worked in the past and how it could

work in the future, including the financial and staff costs to UNA-UK of continuing to host the programme, and the support UNA-UK has been able to provide Adopt-A-Minefield in the UK. The outcome of these discussions is that Adopt-A-Minefield will seek to establish itself as a charity in its own right in the UK. UNA-UK will seek to extend the right to host Adopt-A-Minefield

UK beyond the expiry of the current licence, in order to give more time for Adopt-A-Minefield UK to pursue this option. If this option is confirmed then UNA-UK will explore with the new Adopt-A-Minefield charity ways of retaining a partnership to raise awareness about the landmine issue and to raise funds to clear landmines and help landmine survivors.



Photo: Chris Bennett

A more youthful UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws near a minefield in the former Yugoslavia back in 1992!

UN De-mining in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Lincoln UNA have raised a magnificent £7,000 to clear landmines. This donation was received by Adopt-A-Minefield shortly before Christmas and has now been forwarded as part of a \$26,606 (approximately £14,098) grant to Bosnia-Herzegovina where it will save lives. It will be used to fund the manual clearance of 13,736 square metres of mined land near Vitez. The minefield is around the site of a power line that connects the villages of Zabrde and Zaselje, near Vitez, Srednje-bosanski. (The adoption is now listed on Adopt-A-Minefield's website, www.landmines.org.uk.)

The de-mining of this electrical power system is the main precondition for the re-

construction of a major tourist and recreational facility for the surrounding area.

Prior to the war this site, which contains a skiing centre and mountaineer house with 40 beds, was used by thousands of families as well as local schools. Local authorities have developed a plan for reconstruction including renovating the water supply and road maintenance. However, everything must wait for mine clearance so that there can be a source of electrical power.

As a result of match funding arrangements established by the U.S. Department of State with the International Trust Fund, every £1 received for mine clearance in

Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina attracts a further £1 of match funding. This means that funds donated by Lincoln UNA have been doubled. The ITF match fund will be used to clear other land in Bosnia-Herzegovina soon.

Since the end of the war in Former Yugoslavia there have been 1,497 people killed or injured as a result of landmines in Bosnia.


Adopt-A-Minefield®
Clear a path to a safer world

**1 April 2005**

To: All paid-up members of
the United Nations
Association

Kingston Smith –
Registered Auditor



**United Nations Association
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

3 Whitehall Court - London SW1A 2EL

Telephone: 020 7766 3444

Fax: 020 7930 5893

E-mail: info@una-uk.org Website: www.una-uk.org

A Company limited by Guarantee. Registered in England no. 2885557. Registered office 3 Whitehall Court SW1A 2EL

NOTICE OF COMPANY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Company Limited by Guarantee, United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, will be held at 2pm on 4 June 2005 at the Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

AGENDA

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2004

Business arising from the minutes

ORDINARY RESOLUTION 1

That the audited accounts for the period ending 30 June 2004 together with the Directors' and Auditor's reports be received and approved.

ORDINARY RESOLUTION 2

That Kingston Smith, having indicated their willingness to serve again, be appointed auditors for the ensuing year and that they be paid for their services a sum to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association.

ORDINARY RESOLUTION 3

That those persons elected in the postal ballot in accordance with Rule 50(a) shall be members of the Board of Directors of the Association for a period of one year terminating at the end of the AGM in 2006.

NOTE: The names of the successful candidates will be announced at the AGM.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION 1

That, with immediate effect, the text at article 26(i) (namely: "(i) The Chairperson of the Stakeholder Forum for our Common Future") be deleted.

Ajay Vasa - Company Secretary



Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association (a Company Limited by Guarantee) held at the University of Reading on Friday, 2 April 2004

Present: Sir Richard Jolly in the Chair and 43 members

Welcome

Sir Richard Jolly welcomed members to the meeting

Minutes

The Minutes of the ninth AGM held on 25 April 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed. There were no matters arising.

Ordinary Resolution 1

"That the audited accounts for the period ending 30 June 2002 together with the Director's and Auditor's report be received and approved."

Moving the resolution the Treasurer referred to the Trust Fund which effectively constituted the Association's reserves. In the year to 30 June 2003 we had drawn down £96,000 and in addition had used up a legacy of £33,000, which meant a total overspend of £129,000. The Trust Fund was receiving less money than hitherto and we were making heavier drawings. In the current financial year there had been some special factors, the appointment of a new Director, shortfall on programmes, and fundraising providing only 25% of expectations, which were estimated to reduce our general reserve to £187,000 by the end of this financial year. We were aiming to keep a minimum of £75,000 in our reserves.

Ordinary Resolution 1 Moved by the Treasurer, seconded by Harold Stern: AGREED

Ordinary Resolution 2

"That Kingston Smith, having indicated their willingness to serve again, be appointed auditors for the ensuing year and that they be paid for their services a sum to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association."

Ordinary Resolution 2 Moved by the Treasurer, seconded by Kevin Hutchens: AGREED

Ordinary Resolution 3

"That those persons elected in the postal ballot in accordance with Rule 50(a) shall be members of the Board of Directors of the Association for a period of one year terminating at the end of the AGM in 2005."

Only eight nominations were received for eight vacancies: no ballot was necessary. The elected members were: Janet Blackman, Rod Fielding, Linda McCulloch, Pandit Nilesh Parekh, Michael Rossi, Harold Stern, William Say, and David Wardrop.

Special Resolution 1

"That, with effect from 1 July 2004, article 26(g) of the Articles of Association be changed to read: "The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director" and that any reference to the posts of Director and Deputy Director be changed to read Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director respectively."

Special Resolution 1 Moved by Harold Stern, seconded by Janet Blackman: AGREED

Special Resolution 2

"That, with immediate effect, the following clause be added to Article 26 "(i) The Chairperson of the Stakeholder Forum for our Common Future."

Special Resolution 2 Moved by Harold Stern, seconded by Malcolm Harper: AGREED

Date of next meeting – to be arranged.

Annual Report

Year ending 30 June 2004

Iraq

The issue of Iraq continued to play an important part in the work and activities of UNA this year, with UNA's attention focussing on the activities of the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Interim Governing Council, as well as the progress of post-conflict reconstruction, with particular reference to the UN's role.

UN and Conflict

The educational work of UNA's UN and Conflict Programme continued, focussing in particular during this year on the following issues: the Ivory Coast, Afghanistan, standby forces for African peacekeeping and the construction, by Israel, of the wall in the occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Migrant Workers Convention

UNA's educational and campaigning work this year also focussed on the Migrant Workers Convention, which came into force on 1 July 2003 (without UK ratification). Through UNA's work we sought to dispel some of the myths that exist in relation to immigration, and to persuade the government to sign up to this important convention.

Model UN Educational Work

Throughout the year UNA continued its educational work through the Model UN programme. The Director, the Deputy Director and staff generally were much involved with school visits and a variety of Model UN events and were encouraged to see the steady development of work in this area. The pack "How to run a model UN Security Council" was completed during the year.

Adopt-A-Minefield

UNA continued its fundraising, through Adopt-A-Minefield, with the aim of relieving the world of the scourge of landmines and to help victims of landmines. A major fundraising event was organised in conjunction with the National Union of Teachers, as part of a plan to educate school children on the landmine issue.

UNA and Youth

This year saw growing cooperation between UNA and UNYSA in appreciation of the importance of linking together the older generations with today's youth. As part of UNA's commitment to this, a Youth Officer was appointed by UNA in August 2003.

UNA Freshwater Campaign

2003 was the UN International Year of Freshwater and the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation is one of the key UN Millennium Development Goals. UNA's Freshwater Campaign concentrated on encouraging regions and branches to petition and educate in relation to the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene. UNA produced fact sheets and briefings to assist in educating and raising awareness. In February 2004 UNA delivered its water petition to the Secretary of State for International Development. In conjunction with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, UNA organised a conference in London, in March 2004, on World Water Day.

WFUNA

UNA continued to liaise with WFUNA, and delegates attended WFUNA meetings in New York in September 2003, to support the central role being played by WFUNA in furthering civil society support for the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Lobby 2004

This year's lobby surpassed all its predecessors with attendance of over 300 and the participation of 80 organisations drawn widely from civil society. UNA was pleased to use the lobby as a vital tool to educate as to the relevance of international issues and of the importance of the work of the United Nations.

UNA & the future

During the course of the year, and in anticipation of the retirement of the current Director, Malcolm Harper, UNA recruited a new Executive Director, appointing Mr Sam Daws (with effect from September 2004).



Summary Accounts

Income and Expenditure Account For the year ended 30th June 2004

	2004 £	2003 £
Income		
Members, regions and branches	202,362	162,697
Grants - UNA Trust	513,652	376,526
- Other	528,417	1,211,435
Other project and departmental income	49,151	105,238
Other income	<u>44,780</u>	<u>35,981</u>
	<u>1,338,362</u>	<u>1,891,877</u>
Expenditure		
Staff costs	805,676	855,011
Other project and departmental costs	448,414	982,293
Travel and subsistence	12,147	9,915
Office costs	41,970	40,865
Printing and publications	2,555	4,306
Other costs	<u>30,545</u>	<u>39,508</u>
	1,341,307	1,931,898
Deficit for the Year	(2,945)	(40,021)
Reserves brought forward	<u>(11,511)</u>	<u>28,510</u>
Reserves carried forward	<u>(14,456)</u>	<u>(11,511)</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2004

	2004 £	2003 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	5,805	11,819
Current Assets		
Debtors	214,619	310,190
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>37,611</u>	<u>10,727</u>
	252,230	320,917
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(272,491)</u>	<u>(341,970)</u>
Net Current Liabilities	<u>(20,261)</u>	<u>(21,053)</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	(14,456)	(9,234)
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	–	<u>(2,277)</u>
	<u>(14,456)</u>	<u>(11,511)</u>
Reserves		
General Reserve	(14,456)	16,241
UNED Reserve (deficit)	–	<u>(27,752)</u>
	<u>(14,456)</u>	<u>(11,511)</u>

The above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are extracted from the full accounts of the Association which have been audited by Kingston Smith and given an unqualified opinion. The full accounts may be obtained from the Association's offices at 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.



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FROM THE UN YOUTH AND STUDENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE UK (UNYSA-UK)

Welcome to another packed issue of *Newer World*. There are many exciting events to report, ranging from a historic North of England MUN to UNYSA-UK's success in securing three British youth representatives to the United Nations General Assembly in September. Read on for full details!

THE UNITED NATIONS CONSULTS WITH UNYSA-UK ON THE MDGs

Camille Narayan UNA-UK Temporary Youth Officer

From 13 to 17 February, UNYSA-UK President Richard Bartlett attended a youth consultation at the United Nations in New York. UNYSA-UK was one of just 12 organisations from around the world invited to take part in the process, which was entitled "Youth and the

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the MDGs".

The consultation, organised at the request of Kofi Annan, sought young people's views on the progress made and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the World Programme of Action. The

Programme provides a national and international framework to increase the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people for full and effective participation in society. This consultation presented an opportunity to highlight concerns that have emerged since the Programme's adoption in 1995 and to explore ways in which youth can feed into the broader development agenda.

One of the major items of discussion was the recent interim report "Youth and the Millennium



UNA-UK campaigns to end the use of child soldiers through the achievement of Goal 8 of the MDGs, which calls for implementing "strategies for decent and productive work for youth". (UN/DPI Photo)

Development Goals: Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation". The report was produced by an ad hoc working group in November 2004, and was aimed at policymakers to provide ideas on how to increase the role of youth in achieving the MDGs. On the basis of these discussions Richard and the other participants submitted formal proposals for the Secretary-General's report to the 60th session of the General Assembly

Returning from New York, Richard told *Newer World*, "It was a fantastic opportunity for me and young people globally to have our voices heard at the United Nations". To find out more about the consultation, or to view the interim report on youth and the MDGs, go to www.un.org/youth.



Achieving the MDGs depends on improving the lives of children and young people around the world. (UN/DPI Photo)



NORTH OF ENGLAND MODEL UNITED NATIONS (NEMUN)

Philip Stanier Under-Secretary-General of NEMUN and Chair of Leeds University UNA

Manchester MUN Society and Leeds University UNA recently joined forces in true United Nations spirit to host the first ever North of England MUN International in Manchester. The result was a truly different, Northern conference.

With the Security Council, ECOSOC and the General Assembly debating until

late, three topics were covered. Video recordings, press releases and diplomatic announcements were made to give the SC delegates a real sense of urgency. As things heated up, it was possible to see beads of sweat running down the Saudi delegate's face as 'news reports' broadcasted the possible collapse of the House of Saud. By evening, though, tensions

were put on ice as all delegates were able to sample the delights of the Manchester nightlife.

With this first conference under our belts and with a healthy mix of international and British delegates, we look forward to seeing NEMUN grow, develop and really contribute something different to British MUN-ing.



RIBBONS ARE NO MORE: LONG LIVE THE WRISTBAND!

Tom Spencer UNYSA Membership Officer

At the risk of sounding a bit miserly and uncharitable I just have to say that I really hate charity wristbands.

The fact that Nike is behind some of the more prominent campaigns is enough in itself to send one's charitable instincts into red alert. Nike with a kinder, more caring side? I'm not convinced! My reasons for steering clear of the 'wristbandwagon' do not end with Nike, however. Newspaper reports have linked anti-bullying wristbands to fights at schools, with children stealing them from one another due to lack of supply. Brilliant work, DfES! These bands also pose an apparent health risk: a head teacher in Monmouth recently banned wristbands from her school stating, "We don't want anything dangling that could get caught in a lathe." Blimey!

But, with the enthusiastic endorsement of big-hearted luminaries such as Bono, Peter Andre and Jordan, the backlash against wristbands looks doomed to failure. And with UNA also joining the ranks and becoming a

member of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**, what's a UNYSA member to do but jump on the bandwagon and grab a seat next to Peter and Jordan?!

Get a hold of fairly priced, fairly made wristbands and be part of a unique world-wide effort in 2005 to end extreme poverty. For more details visit www.makepovertyhistory.org/getaband.html.



UNYSA-UK CITIZENSHIP PACK

Jo Phaure
UNYSA Campaigns Officer

The main theme for UNYSA's campaigning work this year is citizenship. All of our various projects around this theme aim to encourage young people to become more involved with global citizenship through learning and participation. Our citizenship campaign is about building bridges with local communities and getting the opinions of young people heard.

We are therefore launching an excellent new citizenship pack to give inspiration and advice for stepping out into your local community and promoting citizenship through simple but effective techniques such as peer education.

To download a copy of the citizenship pack, visit our website at www.unysa-uk.org and simply follow the citizenship links to learn more. Young people have unique and valuable perspectives on the global community, so help fellow youth voice their opinion while you learn more yourself!



UNYSA-UK NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Kate Grady

UNYSA Immediate Past Vice President

Well, folks, it's time again for UNYSA's national conference, and this year's will be better than ever! UNYSA's conference is the yearly event where UNA Youth and Student members from across the country get together. It's a fantastic opportunity to network with other members, share experiences and ideas.

This year we have secured as a keynote speaker Nick Morates, a youth consultant for Amnesty International. In addition, this year's workshops deal with the following subjects:

- Youth Participation, which is open to attendees of both UNYSA's conference and the UNA Annual Conference
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), led by the Department for International Development (tbc)
- Volunteering opportunities, led by UNA Exchange
- Your future career at the UN

DEPARTING YOUTH COUNCIL

Tim Jarman UNYSA Immediate Past President

A number of current Youth Council members (myself included) will be leaving in April, having served our two consecutive terms of office. In the past two years, we've seen UNYSA-UK emerge from obscurity to become a dynamic, rapidly growing organisation with increasing influence on the youth stage.

Whilst it will be sad to leave the Youth Council behind, many of us will be sure to stay involved where we can. We all hope that we leave UNYSA-UK in a strong position for the new Youth Council, who will take office in April, to lead the organisation forward to an even brighter future.



Kate Grady and Tim Jarman with Kofi Annan at the 10 February Banqueting House event in London (Photograph © Anne-Marie Briscoombe/UNA-UK)



Virginia working with children in the Dominican Republic

VIRGINIA SAIZ

Tim Jarman

UNYSA Immediate Past President

In early January, Virginia Saiz left UNA-UK to pursue a career with Plan International in the Dominican Republic. Though very sad that she has gone, the Youth Council and UNYSA-UK would like to thank Virginia for all her hard work and commitment to the youth cause during her time at UNA-UK and wish her the best of luck in her exciting new career.



UNYSA TEAMS UP WITH THE FCO TO SEND 3 YOUTH DELEGATES TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Richard Bartlett UNYSA President

On 10 March 2005 Minister Bill Rammell MP formally announced the FCO's plans to work with UNA's youth wing, UNYSA, to send three British youth delegates to the United Nations General Assembly Millennium +5 Summit in New York this autumn. This is the first time that the UK is sending youth representatives to New York, and we believe it will be the only UN member state ever to send three delegates!

The initiative is a result of a proposal which UNYSA submitted to the Foreign Office in September 2004, and UNYSA has therefore

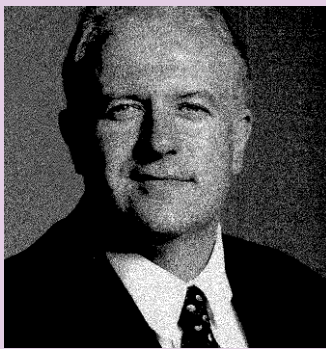
been tasked with administering the selection process in partnership with the FCO. Over the coming weeks youth delegates will be selected to speak at the UN on behalf of young people in the UK. The successful candidates must be between the ages of 18 and 24 and will be official delegates to the UK's mission in New York for two weeks. The duties of the youth delegates will include:

1. attending two plenary meetings of the General Assembly devoted to the evaluation of the progress made in implement-

ing the World Programme Of Action for Youth

2. participating in an informal, interactive round-table discussion on the theme "Young People: making commitments matter"
3. negotiating with other EU youth delegates to produce a common youth voice for Europe

For more information about this fantastic opportunity, please see the poster on the back page of this issue of *New World*.



"Representing the UK at the United Nations in New York, the youth delegates will liaise with youth organisations across the UK and attend part of the World Youth Congress in Stirling in August, before actively participating in youth-related General Assembly discussions. This initiative evolved from the first FCO UN Youth Forum last October, and we will team up once again with the UN Youth and Students Association, this time to search for and select youth delegates."

Bill Rammell MP, FCO Minister with responsibility for the UN



"As we celebrate 60 years of the United Nations and come together to discuss reform of the United Nations, it is very apt that, to mark the historical importance of the occasion, the British government is empowering British youth by providing them with this platform, this opportunity at the United Nations."

Richard Bartlett, UNYSA President

WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS 2005 Stirling, Scotland 30 July to 8 August 2005

Camille Narayan UNA-UK Temporary Youth Officer

The World Youth Congress is a week-long gathering of hundreds of youth between the ages of 18 and 25, as well as government and aid agencies working in the area of sustainable development. The goal of the Congress is to promote volunteering, global citizenship, and the UN

Millennium Development Goals. The schedule includes workshops; policy discussions among youth, aid agencies and international development officials; and seminars to identify strategies for mobilising youth in the campaign to achieve the MDGs.

The significance of such an event during the UK presidencies of the EU and G8 should not be overlooked, as this raises the impact youth can make in development at home and abroad - an opportunity not to be missed!

For more information please visit www.scotland2005.com.

Youth Delegate to the United Nations

**A chance to represent your
country and make sure that
the voice of youth is heard
at the United Nations in 2005**



**The position of UK Youth delegate
is open to all UK citizens aged 18-24**

For more details, please visit www.unysa-uk.org



**United Nations Youth & Student Association - UK
in partnership with the
Foreign & Commonwealth Office**

www.unysa-uk.org

www.fco.gov.uk

