



“everything is going to be OK”

the climate change
deniers and their
war on science



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UK
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Business and Human Rights

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FROM SAM DAWS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the spring 2007 issue of *New World*. This issue covers a broad canvas of issues facing the United Nations.

Our cover feature is on the war against science – UNA-UK aims to place a spotlight on those who, through malice or ignorance, misrepresent the science behind the fourth report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The vast majority of the world's eminent scientists believe that global warming is happening, and that human-generated carbon emissions play a key role in temperature rises. Sir Nicholas Stern has shown there is a strong economic argument for immediate action to combat climate change. UNA-UK asserts that there is also a strong moral case to act now to 'stop climate chaos', since those countries and people least equipped to mitigate the effects of climate change will be most affected. See page 12. I encourage all readers to support the 'I Count' campaign. See our website for more details.

The Millennium Development Goals were set in the year 2000 and aim to lift over a billion people out of debilitating poverty by the year 2015. We are nearing the halfway mark towards this deadline, and the progress thus far remains mixed. UNA-UK has joined a number of the country's leading development NGOs in creating a new coalition to build on the achievements of Make Poverty History and maintain momentum to end global poverty. More information about the World

Can't Wait can be found on page 25.

New UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed a strong management team (page 18) and has been vocal in recent months on Darfur, nuclear proliferation and climate change. In his personal message to UNA-UK's 2007 Annual Conference at Warwick University, he praises the Association's work (page 7).

“ UNA-UK asserts that there is a strong moral case to act now to 'stop climate chaos', since those countries and people least equipped to mitigate the effects of climate change will be most affected ”

UNA-UK's intensive lobbying of the government continues, with a recent meeting with Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett and several letters to the government on subjects ranging

from cluster munitions to the BAE Systems corruption investigation (see page 8). Edinburgh UNA held an excellent workshop at the Scottish Parliament to consult Scottish people on Trident and the NPT. The event included international experts and representatives of all the main political parties in Scotland. See page 16 for more details.

We are delighted that Dame Margaret Anstee will be giving the keynote speech to Annual Conference. Her biography can be found on page 6. The conference will also see the unveiling of the next incarnation of UNA-UK's website, with increased multimedia capabilities.

This issue of *New World* profiles a selection of films which feature the UN or areas of its work (page 22). Films so rarely depict the UN judiciously, so we have tried to include some which rise above the norm.

Because of reduced income UNA-UK has begun the process of restructuring head office operations and administrative work, so as to undertake the work with fewer staff. We aim in a relatively short period of time to be in a position to provide the same (or better) levels of service to our members and supporters, but please bear with us over the next three to six months, as we put new systems in place.

Please remember the UNA Trust in your wills. Legacies are a vital source of income for us, and your contribution can help ensure that UNA-UK is around to inspire the next generation to support the values and work of the United Nations.



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A lack of legacy income this year has given additional urgency to the need to restructure and reduce staffing at UNA-UK head office. We say goodbye and wish good luck to Olliver Southgate who left us in early April 2007 by mutual agreement. Olliver has been of considerable help in codifying a number of our operations procedures. UNA-UK's Executive Director Sam Daws will assume the Deputy Director's duties, performing those alongside his own while the necessary restructuring of UNA-UK's operations and administrative work takes place.

We also now say a fond goodbye to Mike Wood, who has worked as an administrator at UNA-UK for a record 37 years. A special feature on Mike's contribution to the organisation will be included in the July-September 2007 issue of *New World*, and an event will be held in London for staff and members to express their deep appreciation to Mike for everything he has done for the Association.

UN Mis

Khalilzad to be US ambassador to UN

On 28 March, the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the nomination of Zalmay Khalilzad as US ambassador to the UN. An Afghan-born Sunni Muslim, Khalilzad is the former US ambassador to both Afghanistan and Iraq. The next step is for Khalilzad's nomination to be considered by the full Senate, where no serious obstacles are expected. If he wins Senate confirmation, Khalilzad will replace John Bolton, who resigned in December 2006 amid expectations that the Senate would not confirm him when his temporary recess appointment expired in January 2007.

General Assembly agrees to peacekeeping revamp

On 15 March the General Assembly agreed, against the backdrop of a swell in the number and complexity of peace operations, to endorse Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's proposals for restructuring the UN's peacekeeping architecture. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations will be split into a Department of Field Support and a Department of Peace Operations; according to the Secretary-General's plans, both departments will be headed by an Under-Secretary-General.

ICC moves against alleged Darfur war crimes perpetrators

On 27 February the International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor asked judges to issue summonses against Sudan's humanitarian affairs minister and a *Janjaweed* militia leader. The two men are accused of 51 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.



scellany . . .

Human Rights Council passes resolution on Darfur

On 30 March the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on Darfur, which "took note" of the report of the high-level mission it had tasked with reviewing the human rights situation there. The mission had concluded that the Sudanese government had "itself orchestrated and participated in" serious human rights abuses in the war-torn region. The resolution, which has been criticised for skirting the issue of Khartoum's culpability in perpetrating the abuses, establishes a new independent expert monitoring group to work with the Sudanese government and the AU to implement applicable UN human rights resolutions.

Universal criminalisation of aggression?

A special working group of the ICC, headed by Liechtenstein's Christian Wenaweser, is reported to be close to agreeing a definition of aggression. If the group is successful, its efforts could constitute a legal breakthrough.

The 1998 Rome Statute gave the ICC jurisdiction over 'crimes of aggression' but stipulated that, before this jurisdiction could be exercised, states parties to the Statute needed to elaborate a definition of aggression consistent with the UN Charter. An agreement on a definition could therefore serve as a legal basis for prosecuting individual state leaders for acts of aggression.

But sticking points remain, both over aspects of the definition and over whether the Security Council, ICC or another body should be tasked with determining if an act of aggression had occurred. The working group has until the end of 2008 to reach agreement.

OECD questions UK's commitment to anti-corruption

On 14 March, the OECD rebuked the UK government for terminating the Serious Fraud Office's investigation into possible corruption in a major arms deal with Saudi Arabia. The OECD said that British anti-bribery legislation was deficient and queried why the UK government had so far failed to prosecute any British companies for bribery despite its international commitments to act against corruption.

UN envoy tables plan for Kosovo's future

Martti Ahtisaari, the UN special envoy tasked with mapping out Kosovo's political future, has sent his recommendations to the Security Council. After a year of trying to broker an agreement between Kosovo and Serbia, Ahtisaari has determined that further stalling over Kosovo's status would only provoke unrest and possibly a lapse into violence.

Ahtisaari told the Security Council that he saw eventual independence as the only viable option for the Serbian province. The route to full and internationally recognised independence would require a transitional period with Kosovo remaining under international supervision. His report emphasises legal safeguards for Kosovo's Serbian minority, who are outnumbered by ethnic Albanians by nine to one. Serbia opposes the plan, and Russia, its veto-wielding ally on the Security Council, has indicated it may block any proposals lacking Serbian endorsement.

World Water Day

On 22 March, events took place around the globe to mark World Water Day. This year's

theme focused on water scarcity and highlighted its linkages to income inequality, education levels, and access to food, as well as the need for an integrated, sustainable approach to managing water resources. About 700 million people in 43 countries suffer from water scarcity.

Zimbabwean crackdown

Robert Mugabe's regime has come under vociferous international criticism for the arrests and beatings of supporters and members of the political opposition, including its main leader Morgan Tsvangirai. On 28 March the UK urged the Security Council to denounce the Zimbabwean government, but South Africa as the Council's serving president rejected the call, arguing that the situation did not constitute a threat to international peace and security and was thus not within the body's remit.

Security Council and Iran

On 24 March, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1747 imposing tougher sanctions on Iran in response to the country's nuclear activities, including a ban on arms sales and the expansion of an asset freeze.

Renewed fighting in Somalia

In March fighting intensified in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital, between supporters of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) and forces acting for the transitional government. The escalation of violence follows the ousting of the UIC by Ethiopian soldiers in December 2006. Civilian fatalities have been reported and the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is rising. In Somalia IDPs are already estimated to total 400,000.

On 6 March, 1,500 Ugandan troops were deployed to Somalia as part of AMISON, the UN-authorised African Union peace operation to help bring stability to the capital. A cargo plane serving the mission was later shot down, and its crew killed. The act was condemned by the Security Council, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.



Annual Conference

2007

We are delighted that **Dame Margaret Anstee** will serve as the keynote speaker for Annual Conference 2007, being held this year at Warwick University, Coventry.

Her speech, entitled **A Survivor's Tale: a personal account of life and work at the United Nations**, will be delivered at 4.15pm on Friday, 13 April.

Biography of Dame Margaret Joan Anstee DCMG

Margaret Anstee served the United Nations for over four decades, rising to the rank of Under-Secretary-General. Over the course of her career she lived in 15 countries and visited over 130 on official missions.

From 1952 to 1987 Anstee directed operational programmes of economic and social development in every region of the world. She was then appointed Director-General of the United Nations in Vienna, and until 1992 served concurrently as Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and as the coordinator of all UN narcotic drug control programmes. From 1992 to 1993 she was the Secretary-General's Special Representative to Angola and head of the UN peacekeeping mission there (UNAVEM II: the UN Angola Verification Mission).

Since leaving the UN in July 1993, Dame Margaret has worked *ad honorem* as an independent consultant and as a special adviser to the president and government of Bolivia on matters relating to development and international finance.

Her book *Orphan of the Cold War: the Inside Story of the Collapse of the Angolan Peace Process 1992-3* was published in October 1996. Her autobiography, *Never Learn to Type: A Woman at the United Nations*, was published in 2003.

Dame Margaret was educated at Newnham College, Cambridge and at London University.



Photo courtesy of Margaret Joan Anstee



UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
Coventry, 13 April 2007

It gives me great pleasure to send my greetings to the Annual Conference of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom.

The work of the United Nations thrives on the support of citizens everywhere. This is especially true in the United Kingdom, a country with a long and distinguished history of engagement with our organisation and its mission. From debt relief to climate change, human rights to UN reform, the people and government of the United Kingdom have proved reliable advocates for the most pressing issues on the United Nations' agenda.

For more than six decades, UNA-UK has helped cultivate this support. Through outreach, volunteer efforts, educational initiatives, conferences and seminars, your members have built a grassroots support base for the UN, its values and its vision. You have explained the UN to the UK, and helped convey the concerns of UK citizens to the UN.

Despite the relatively short time that I have been at the United Nations, it is already clear to me just how much your advocacy matters to our organisation. So I am delighted that UNA-UK is more active and more engaged than ever before. Your membership is growing, outreach among students and young people is on the rise, and your website is attracting unprecedented traffic.

These welcome trends coincide with an exciting period in the life of the United Nations. We are in the midst of reform and renewal. Late last year, a High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence ably co-chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, recommended ambitious changes to the way the UN system carries out development work. More recently, the General Assembly approved plans to restructure our peacekeeping and disarmament divisions.

In these early days in office, I hope to make the most of this momentum. Indeed, I am committed to a UN system that can advance the global security, development and human rights agenda in the most transparent, effective and professional way possible. As I work to realise this vision, I know I can count on the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom and your membership for continued guidance and encouragement.

Let me thank you all for that support, and let me wish you a most successful conference.

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**"the Government's relationship
with UNA-UK continues
to thrive"**

Tony Blair

Rt. Hon Tony Blair MP

Conservatives

**"UNA-UK and its members
are at the heart of this debate"**

David Cameron

Rt. Hon David Cameron MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 9AA

**"I congratulate UNA-UK
on all its achievements over
the past year"**

Menzies Campbell

Rt. Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC MP

These are extracts from the letters received from UNA-UK's Honorary Presidents. The full text of these letters can be found on UNA-UK's website, www.una.org.uk, under 'Annual Conference'. Or you can obtain them in hard copy by calling Natalie Samarasinghe on 020 7766 3457.



UNA-UK Engagement with the UK Government

Meeting with the Foreign Secretary

On 23 January, UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay and Executive Director Sam Daws met with Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett to raise UNA-UK's policy concerns and to discuss potential future partnership projects between the FCO and UNA-UK. Veronica Lie attended for UNA-UK as a notetaker.

The discussion, which lasted for over an hour, was wide-ranging, covering Darfur, Iran, North Korea and the NPT, the Middle East conflict, climate change, and

the Serious Fraud Office's investigation into BAE Systems. The start of the meeting was filmed by the BBC for a documentary showing 'a day in the life' of the Foreign Secretary.

UNA-UK followed up the meeting with a continuation of our correspondence on Darfur and a letter seeking FCO and DEFRA financial support for a series of conferences on climate change, to be held, funding dependent, in 2008 in major cities around the UK



Photo © FCO

Extract from a summary of 'Day in the life: Margaret Beckett', as posted on www.bbc.co.uk

The next visitor is a retired British diplomat, Lord Hannay, lobbying on behalf of the United Nations Association. A former ambassador, he looks at home in these surroundings. More tea is served.

On the sofa, a row of diplomats silently takes notes as over the next hour he raises concerns ranging from Darfur to UN reform with the Foreign Secretary.

UNA-UK's Advocacy Work

UNA-UK has maintained its lobbying of the government on issues raised by members.

Cluster munitions

On 16 January, Lord Hannay wrote to the Foreign Secretary calling on the government to declare an immediate moratorium on the use of cluster munitions, and to participate in the international conference on cluster munitions hosted in Oslo by the Norwegian government in February.

While the initial reply from the Foreign Secretary did not depart from established government policy, the government surprised many observers at the Oslo meeting by undertaking what Anne Penketh described in the *Independent* as a 'U-turn', declaring it would support the conclusion, by 2008, of a legally binding international instrument to "prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians".

On 20 March, Defence Secretary Des Browne took another step, announcing that

the UK would immediately cease all use of 'dumb' cluster munitions, the first major power to so do.

UNA-UK welcomes these announcements but notes that the ban does not cover so-called 'smart' cluster munitions – i.e. those having a target discrimination or self-deactivation mechanism. We will continue to campaign for the rapid negotiation of an international treaty banning all cluster munitions.

Combating corruption

Following our successful conference on anti-corruption with Transparency International UK in Sheffield last December, UNA-UK has continued its work in this area, writing to the Foreign Secretary on 16 January to protest the government's decision to terminate the investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into BAE Systems' contracts with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to supply it with Eurofighter jets. In the letter, Lord Hannay wrote that this decision was at odds with the commitment made in the recent DfID white paper on interna-

tional development entitled 'Eliminating world poverty: making governance work for the poor'. This paper committed the UK to working "internationally to tackle bribery, corruption and money laundering". UNA-UK understands that the letter has been passed to the Attorney General for reply. As of 31 March 2007, no reply has been received by UNA-UK.

Darfur

UNA-UK wrote again to the Foreign Secretary on 13 March, expressing our continuing dismay at the appalling and deteriorating situation in the Darfur region of Sudan, and urging the British government to step up its efforts to secure meaningful international action.

A number of UNA-UK's members and branches have contacted their MPs to urge the government to prioritise bringing stability to Darfur. See the back page of *New World* for information on the forthcoming 'Day for Darfur' on 29 April, being organised by the Globe for Darfur coalition of which UNA-UK is a member.

exposed and hungry

life in eastern Congo

A photo exhibition by UNHCR and WFP

In April and May 2007, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) are jointly holding an exhibition in London of photographs from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The exhibition, entitled 'Exposed and Hungry: life in eastern Congo', is funded by the Department for International Development.

The photographs, taken by Susan Schulman on a recent assignment for both agencies, document the experiences of the Congolese displaced, in camps and in flight, and capture the emotions of those returning to their homes and starting life anew.

There are an estimated 1.6 million Congolese who are internally displaced, and a further 400,000 still in exile. UNHCR and WFP work together to provide them with food and shelter.

The exhibition opens on 24 April and will be on show for three weeks at the gallery@oxo – located on the ground floor of the Oxo Tower. It will then move on 15 May to the Royal Albert Hall for a further three weeks. Visit www.unhcr.org.uk for more information.

Susan Schulman is a freelance photographer who has worked with a number of humanitarian agencies. You can view more of her work at www.susanschulman.co.uk

The most recent issue of UNHCR's flagship magazine, *Refugees*, focuses on the immense challenges currently facing the DRC. You can read the magazine online at www.unhcr.org.uk

UNHCR is launching an appeal to raise funds for its work with DRC's internally displaced people and Congolese refugees. To donate visit www.unhcr.org.uk/donate

THIS IS MY STORY



Business and Human Rights

UNA-UK teams up with Clifford Chance and CBI to host **John Ruggie**



Professor John Ruggie

On 19 February, Professor John Ruggie, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, served as the keynote speaker at an event held under the joint auspices of Clifford Chance LLP and UNA-UK, in conjunction with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). The efforts of Michael Smyth, partner at Clifford Chance and its Head of Public Policy, should be especially acknowledged: he was the inspiration behind the event, and we are grateful to his firm for its generous sponsorship of the event.

Professor Ruggie's speech was made just prior to his formal report to the UN Human Rights Council. His talk was followed by insightful contributions from two respondents: Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, and Richard Lambert, Director-General of CBI, who spoke on behalf of 'civil society' and 'business', respectively. A stimulating Q&A session ensued, which reflected the diversity of the participants – business leaders, academics, trade union representatives, lawyers, UNA-UK Board members and members of UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network.

Professor Ruggie was UN Assistant Secretary-General from 1997 to 2001, and chief adviser for strategic planning to Kofi Annan. His achievements include designing the Global Compact – which now engages some 3,000 firms worldwide – and drafting the Millennium Declaration, which formalised international commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. In 2005, he was mandated by the former UN Commission on Human Rights to develop guidelines for best practices of transnational corporations.



Michael Smyth



Irene Khan and Richard Lambert



Michael Smyth, Sam Daws, Irene Khan, John Ruggie, Richard Lambert



Iain Mathewson (formerly Diplomatic Service),
Barry Camfield (Assistant General Secretary, TGWU)



Jeremy Oppenheim (McKinsey), Lord Hastings (KPMG),
Niaz Alam (Ethical Trading Initiative)



Mark Rusling (UNA-UK), Simon Desjardins (Shell),
Sara Fazlali (YPN)



Aline Brand (PA Consulting), Thelma de Leeuw
(UNA-UK Board), Sarah Meagher (Executive Analysis)



Suzanne Long and David Wardrop, UNA-UK Board members



Camilla Flatt (PERC), Tim Kellow (UNA-UK),
Helen Russell (Golder Associates)



Everything is going to be

OK

The climate change deniers and their war on science

Veronica Lie is UNA-UK's Head of Advocacy

The IPCC and its latest report: why all the fuss?

On 2 February 2007, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first volume of its Fourth Assessment Report, on the 'physical science basis' of climate change. The second and third volumes – on 'impacts, adaptation and vulnerability' and 'mitigation', respectively – will be published in mid-2007, with the fourth and final 'Synthesis Report' due for release at the end of the year.

The IPCC, established by the UN Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in 1988, does not undertake its own research, its chief focus being instead to provide regular assessments of existing, peer-reviewed literature "relevant to understanding the scientific basis of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation". The First Assessment Report was published in 1990, followed by the second in 1995 and the third in 2001. The IPCC's assessment reports are considered the most authoritative sources of information on climate change, its causes and its effects.

The IPCC authors of the Fourth Assessment Report – or 'AR4' – are in a better position than they were in 2001 to under-





stand how human behaviour can warm or cool the climate, having been able to draw on more conclusive data derived from more extensive, longer-term climate modelling and better geographical coverage. Also setting AR4 apart from the earlier reports is the degree of scientific consensus over the positive correlation between emissions of greenhouse gases and accelerated climate change. Whereas the 2001 report states, "There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activity," AR4 is more explicit, concluding that it is more than 90 per cent likely that human activity causes climate change.

Other key findings of AR4's first volume are that temperature will, by the end of the century, have probably risen by between 1.8 and 4 degrees Celsius, but that an increase of between 1.1 and 6.4 degrees is also possible. It is more than 60 per cent likely that sea levels will rise by 28-43 centimetres, that the Arctic summer sea ice will disappear in the second half of the century, and that climate change will lead to more intense tropical storms. That the number of heatwaves will grow in certain parts of the world is deemed to be more than 90 per cent likely.

Politicians and the public following the scientists' lead

The consensus among the IPCC scientists is being matched by apparent agreement among many politicians. In the UK, climate change has become a *cause célèbre*, with the main political parties vying to 'out-green' one another. On 13 March, the government published a draft climate change bill, which if passed would commit the government to legally binding cuts in carbon emissions, set up a system of carbon budgeting to cap emissions over five-year periods, and establish a new independent body to monitor the government's progress and advise it on fulfilling its targets. The response of the Conservative opposition was to welcome the proposed legislation, rather than dispute it, with the Shadow Environment Secretary in fact calling for a more stringent plan, in line with the recommendations of some of the UK's leading environmental non-governmental organisations.

Helping to clear the path for the draft bill was the Stern review, the October 2006 report authored by former World Bank chief economist

Sir Nicholas Stern. The Stern review, on its publication vaunted effusively in Whitehall, predicted that global warming could shrink the world economy by 20 per cent, but that – if we act now – averting the crisis would cost only 1 per cent of global GDP. The report has since come under some criticism for the data upon which the forecasts are premised, yet the basic point stands: climate change is urgent, but dealing with it does not have to hamstring economic growth.

There are indications too that the scientific arguments are resonating with the British public. For instance, 62 per cent of respondents to a MORI poll conducted in January 2007 said that "every possible action should be taken to limit climate change".

Moving against this political momentum, and – more importantly – at odds with the overwhelming burden of scientific proof, are groups which contest global warming, argue that it is being exaggerated, and/or contend that it is an unremarkable phenomenon having its origins not in human activity but in cyclical fluctuations in the temperature of the earth and atmosphere. Often, either through contrivance or ignorance, this dissent is dressed up in what appears to be solid argument but what is in reality flimsy science.

The Great Global Warming Swindle and other fairytales

'The Great Global Warming Swindle', a programme broadcast by Channel 4 in March, takes

this masquerade to an extreme. Leaving aside some of its more inventive inferences – for example, that climate change campaigners are on a mission to "kill" the "African dream" of economic development, and that those calling for action against climate change are cynical alarmists with a vested interest in sustaining the "industry" of distortion and exaggeration they themselves have created – the programme uses discredited theories to try to rubbish the growing scientific consensus about global warming and debunk its links to human activity.

Responding on 13 March to the principal premise of the Channel 4 programme – that the sun, rather than greenhouse gas emissions, is mainly to blame for global warming – scientific author and journalist George Monbiot wrote the following for the *Guardian*:

The film's main contention is that the current increase in global temperatures is caused not by rising greenhouse gases, but by changes in the activity of the sun. It is built around the discovery in 1991 by the Danish atmospheric physicist Dr Eigil Friis-Christensen that recent temperature variations on Earth are in "strikingly good agreement" with the length of the cycle of sunspots.

Unfortunately, he found nothing of the kind. A paper published in the journal Eos in 2004 reveals that the "agreement" was the result of "incorrect handling of the physical data". The real data for recent years show the opposite: that the length of the sunspot

Judge for yourself

- For George Monbiot's full article, 'Don't let truth stand in the way of red-hot debunking of climate change' (13 March 2007) and Professor Carl Wunsch's full letter to WAG TV, see www.guardian.co.uk
- For the *Independent's* analysis arguing that the graphs used to illustrate the programme contained serious errors and distortions, see Steve Connor, 'The real global warming swindle' (14 March 2007), www.independent.co.uk
- Read Bob Ward's letter to Nick Thomas on the Royal Society's website: www.royalsoc.ac.uk
- For the Union of Concerned Scientists' report, 'Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air', see www.ucsusa.org
- Judge for yourself what ExxonMobil is doing about climate change at www.exxonmobil.com/corporate/campaign/climate_view.asp



Martin Durkin, director of 'The Great Global Warming Swindle', on the selection of data for the graphs used in the programme:

"The original Nasa data was very wiggly-lined and we wanted the simplest line we could find."

– reported in the *Independent*, 14 March 2007

cycle has declined, while temperatures have risen. When this error was exposed, Friis-Christensen and his co-author published a new paper, purporting to produce similar results. But this too turned out to be an artefact of mistakes – in this case in their arithmetic.

So Friis-Christensen and another author developed yet another means of demonstrating that the sun is responsible, claiming to have discovered a remarkable agreement between cosmic radiation influenced by the sun and global cloud cover. This is the mechanism the film proposes for global warming. But, yet again, the method was exposed as faulty. They had been using satellite data which did not in fact measure global cloud cover. A paper in the Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics shows that, when the right data are used, a correlation is not found.

So the hypothesis changed again. Without acknowledging that his previous paper was wrong, Friis-Christensen's co-author, Henrik Svensmark, declared there was a correlation – not with total cloud cover but with "low cloud cover". This, too, turned out to be incorrect. Then, last year, Svensmark published a paper purporting to show cosmic rays could form tiny particles in the atmosphere. Accompanying the paper was a press release which went way beyond the findings reported in the paper, claiming it showed that both past and current climate events are the result of cosmic rays.

As Dr Gavin Schmidt of Nasa has shown on www.realclimate.org, five missing steps would have to be taken to justify the wild claims in the press release. "We've often criticised press releases that we felt gave

misleading impressions of the underlying work," Schmidt says, "but this example is by far the most blatant extrapolation beyond reasonableness that we have seen." None of this seems to have troubled the programme makers, who report the cosmic ray theory as if it trounces all competing explanations.

Monbiot then argues that a secondary premise of the programme – that discrepancies between temperatures at the earth's surface and temperatures in the lower atmosphere contradict the common wisdom on the link between global warming and human activity – is similarly bogus. The data were disproved in three papers in *Science* magazine in 2005; and the original study's author even wrote a subsequent paper refuting his earlier conclusions.

Monbiot concludes by pointing out that the film features one scientist whose work has not been disproved, the oceanographer Carl Wunsch. After the programme was aired Wunsch, who in the film "appears to support the idea that increasing carbon dioxide is not responsible for rising global temperatures", wrote to WAG TV, the production company responsible for the programme. In his letter he protested that while his remarks had been "literally what [he] said" they had been "grossly distorted by context". He asked that "the film should never again be seen publicly with [his] participation".

'The Great Global Warming Swindle' is not alone in its exploitation of dodgy science. But while its release could be argued opportunistic and irresponsible, evidently timed as it was to coincide with the publication of the govern-

ment's draft climate change bill, the programme's distortions are dwarfed by propagandisms in different quarters – not least those allegedly generated by giants of the oil industry.

Smoke, mirrors and hot air

On 3 January 2007, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), an American environmental organisation which stresses the need for political non-interference in science, published a report entitled 'Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air'. In this report, UCS argues that ExxonMobil, the world's largest publicly traded company, has waged a war of disinformation about climate change in an apparent bid to sow doubt among policy-makers and the public about the accepted science of climate change and on the need to take action.

ExxonMobil is a titan in the oil and gas industry and is itself a major source of the world's global greenhouse gas emissions, considered by the vast majority of scientists to be the primary catalyst of accelerated climate change. "If it was a country," the UCS report says, "ExxonMobil would rank sixth in emissions."

UCS notes ExxonMobil's close ties not only to the American political establishment (in the 2004 election cycle, ExxonMobil and affiliated individuals doled out more than any other energy company towards political contributions, most of it directed at the Bush campaign) but also to a network of think-tanks. Between 1998 and 2005, says the report, ExxonMobil channelled over \$16 million to 43 organisations, all of which are associated with the work of "climate change contrarians".

The UCS report argues that ExxonMobil's strategy replicates that employed previously by the tobacco industry (which infamously denied the link between smoking and lung cancer). Using this strategy, the company's "modest but effective investment" of \$16 million has allowed it "to fuel doubt about global warming to delay government action just as Big Tobacco did for over 40 years".

According to 'Smoke, Mirrors & Hot Air' ExxonMobil's strategy rests broadly on two pillars, the first being "information laundering" through ostensibly scientific not-for-profit organisations. These organisations are reported to include well-known outfits such as the American Institute and the Cato Institute, as well as some lesser-known ones for which ExxonMobil's financial contribu-

Greenpeace has set up an interactive website mapping out the labyrinthine, overlapping connections linking ExxonMobil to Washington's policy-makers and advocacy organisations seeking to occlude the facts about climate change. See Exxonsecrets.org



tions were said by the *New York Times* to represent more than 10 per cent of their annual budgets. A notable characteristic of these organisations is the large degree of overlap among its board members, staff and scientific advisers; these bodies then, according to the UCS, collectively act as an "echo chamber" and "publish and re-publish the works of a small group of climate change contrarians".

UCS identifies the "rallying call for 'sound science'" as another pillar in ExxonMobil's strategy. Scientists who argue that climate change is happening and that it needs to be addressed are denounced as fantasists, while the climate change contrarians represent themselves as arbiters of truth. The objective, according to the UCS, is to "manufacture uncertainty" about global warming and stall political action on climate change.

All a big misunderstanding?

In an interview with EurActiv.com on 14 February, Ken Cohen, ExxonMobil's vice-president for public affairs, was asked whether the company had changed its opinion on the links between human activity and climate change (the interviewer's impression being that its stance may have "softened"). Cohen replied, "For some people our position on climate change does continue to be misunderstood." He later said:

We are not a denier; we understand that the climate is changing. I know a number of people like to label us that way but the fact is we're not. We are aware that the climate is changing, that the earth has warmed on average about 0.6 degrees Celsius over the last century. We are aware that many global ecosystems, especially in the polar areas, are showing signs of warming; that CO₂ emissions have increased during the same time period and that – during the same time period – the emissions from fossil fuels and land use changes are one source of these emissions.

ExxonMobil's website suggests that the company is doing its bit to reduce emissions, promote cleaner, more efficient sources of energy, and explore the viability of geological carbon storage. Both the website and Cohen's EurActiv.com interview also tout the involvement of ExxonMobil's scientists in compiling IPCC reports as proof of the company's commitment to scientific clarity on climate change.

The Royal Society throws down the gauntlet

But claims of a 'softened stance' and implied support for the IPCC sit somewhat uncomfortably with evidence cited by Bob Ward of the Royal Society in a letter last September to Nick Thomas, the director of corporate affairs of Esso UK, the British arm of ExxonMobil. In his letter, Ward quotes a passage from a public ExxonMobil document in which the IPCC and its conclusions are seriously misrepresented. One sentence reads:

While assessments such as those of the IPCC have expressed growing confidence that recent warming can be attributed to increases in greenhouse gases, these conclusions rely on expert judgment rather than objective, reproducible statistical methods.

Ward points out what ExxonMobil should surely already know: that the IPCC's so-called judgment "was actually based on objective and quantitative analyses and methods, including advanced statistical appraisals, which carefully accounted for the interplay of natural variability, and which have been independently produced."

The letter also refers to a meeting at which, Ward claimed, Thomas had indicated that ExxonMobil would be discontinuing its funding of organisations disseminating inaccurate information about climate change. Ward concludes by stating, "I would be grateful if you could let me know which organisations in the UK and other European countries have been receiving funding from ExxonMobil so that I can work out which of these have been similarly providing inaccurate and misleading information to the public."

What does this mean for the woman or man in the street?

The UN IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report was compiled by over a thousand scientists and brings together reams of peer-reviewed research on climate change and its causes – including, incidentally, the very research which questions the generally accepted link between human activity and global warming. Indeed in certain cases the IPCC has erred on the side of caution and conservatism: its predictions of potential rises in sea level, for example, do not factor in the additional rise which

would result from melting glaciers and ice caps, as this process is hard to model.

Taking into account the wide spectrum of opinion, the myriad hypotheses put forward and the legions of results yielded up from years of climate modelling, the IPCC authors have been able to agree – among other things and as noted above – that global warming's origins in human activity are more than 90 per cent certain, and that sea levels are more than 60 per cent likely to rise by 28–43 centimetres.

These percentages are difficult to convert into practical comprehension. But if you were told that your house was over 90 per cent likely to burn down, or 60 per cent likely to be flooded, what would you do? Argue that the insurance was too expensive and hope for the best?

The science behind climate change is not simple, and effective solutions will require a complex, multi-pronged approach, entailing the development of efficient and affordable energy sources, backed up by massive investments in technology. A key test will be whether the power of the private sector can be harnessed, and whether innovative means for incentivising a shift to a low-carbon economy can be found. If businesses are to help facilitate such a shift, the government needs to adopt long-sighted climate policies which lend themselves to a stable and predictable environment in which carbon markets can thrive.

While the government and private sector must play their part, so can all of us as individuals. The exhortation to reduce, re-use and recycle has never been more important. We all need to act, and act now.



Edinburgh UNA Workshop on Renewal of Trident

Scottish Parliament, 29 January 2007

A key objective of this workshop, which was organised by Edinburgh UNA, was to give the people of Scotland a voice in the debate on the future of Trident. Central themes at the workshop were the British government's white paper on the UK's nuclear deterrent, as well as the implications of Trident-renewal for the UK's global responsibilities and its international legal obligations – in particular those under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The workshop was hosted at the Scottish Parliament by two cross-party groups – the Cross-Party Group for a Culture of Peace and the Cross-Party Group for International Development – and was chaired by Sam Daws, Executive Director of UNA-UK. Keynote speakers included Professor Wyn Bowen, Professor of International Security at King's College London; John Mayer, advocate of the Scottish Bar in Edinburgh; Dr Ali Ansari, Director of the Institute of Iranian Studies at St Andrews University; and Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chair of UNA-UK.

In a letter to Alec Gaines of Edinburgh UNA on 6 March 2007, Defence Secretary Des Browne welcomed the branch's initiative and stated that the Scottish views relayed were being taken into account by the government.

On 14 March the House of Commons voted, with 409 in favour and 161 against, to accept the government's white paper proposals. Parliament thereby gave approval for work to begin on the UK's next generation system of submarine-based nuclear weapons.



Summary of conclusions

A majority of workshop participants expressed the following views:

- Any decision on a new weapon system to replace Trident, and to be built and based in Scotland, should be made only after adequate consultation with the people of Scotland.
- Because there were no compelling military or strategic reasons why a decision had to be taken now, the decision should be delayed.
- Given the overstretch of British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, the £25 billion proposed for the replacement would be better spent supporting the UK's conventional armed services, or for non-military purposes.
- The white paper's proposals risked widening the definition of deterrence in breach of the spirit – if not the letter – of the UK's NPT Article VI obligations.
- While there had been a significant reduction in the UK's nuclear arsenal in the last two decades, the white paper's proposals on reducing numbers of missile warheads were inadequate.
- The government's reassurances that any replacement would be operationally independent of any other state were noted, but it was unclear whether this purported independence applied to the building and maintenance of the weapons platform or rather only to any decision actually to launch the weapons.
- While the British government's decision was unlikely to influence the nuclear policies of Iran or North Korea, the UK's behaviour could affect other states and send a signal about the legitimacy and efficacy of nuclear deterrence.
- The US should engage in direct talks with Iran, without pre-conditions, on Iran's nuclear enrichment programme.
- The British government should give priority to:
 - revitalising multilateral disarmament negotiations through the UN
 - strengthening the NPT, including through implementing the 2000 Programme of Action
 - urging the US to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to help bring it into effect
 - the rapid negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty
 - the mandatory ratification of the IAEA's additional protocol by those states that have IAEA safeguards agreements, to be enforced by a Security Council Chapter VII resolution
 - establishing an international nuclear fuel bank
 - supporting or establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East

A full report of the workshop will be posted on the UNA Scotland website.



Photo © Gari Donn



Regulating Cluster Munitions

Tim Kellow is UNA-UK's John Bright Peace and Security Programme Officer

On 20 March 2007, British Defence Secretary Des Browne announced that the UK will immediately cease all use of 'dumb' cluster munitions. In February, the government agreed to support talks toward an international treaty banning the use of cluster munitions which cause unacceptable harm.

The main elements of a proposed treaty are to:

- prohibit use and transfer of unacceptable cluster munitions
- strengthen existing international humanitarian law and improve compliance
- set narrower conditions for the acceptability of their use
- improve transparency among producers and stockpilers of the weapon
- strengthen and encourage state participation in post-conflict remedial measures

The ban does not cover so-called 'smart' cluster munitions. These still carry the risk of technical failure and pose a serious threat to civilians. UNA-UK is a member of the Cluster Munitions Coalition, a global network of 177 civil society organisations, which demands an immediate moratorium on the use of all cluster munitions.

What are cluster munitions?

Each cluster munition consists of large numbers of submunitions, also called 'bomblets', and is either dropped by aircraft or fired from the ground. The submunitions are released over the target area with the intention of detonating on impact and dispersing shrapnel over a 50-metre radius; the total 'footprint' of each munition can reach up to one square kilometre. The military rationale for these weapons rests on their 'economy of fire', which reduces the financial, logistical and human burden of operations by enabling a relatively small force to engage and degrade a larger enemy.

Civilian effects

Cluster munitions have both immediate and long-term consequences for civilians. In addition to the death and maiming caused during actual attacks, post-conflict effects include:

- Development: preventing the return of displaced civilians and hampering reconstruction
- Lingering threat: civilians returning to affected areas are at risk, especially children who are almost five times more likely to suffer casualties due to the brightly coloured, toy-like appearance of submunitions

- Humanitarian space: obstructing relief agencies, NGOs and peacekeepers from conducting humanitarian and security activities. (In the two weeks following the ceasefire that brought to an end the recent conflict in Lebanon, unexploded cluster submunitions killed 13 people and injured 46, and held back the delivery of aid and the return of civilians to areas of southern Lebanon.)

Military utility

In war, humanitarian impact must be weighed up against military effectiveness. In the case of cluster munitions, the humanitarian effects are devastating and the military utility increasingly questionable. Warfare has changed in ways that reduce the effectiveness of cluster munitions. The latest armoured tanks can withstand the weapon's effects, and modern conflicts are frequently located in populated areas.

Legal considerations

International humanitarian law prohibits the use of weapons and methods of warfare designed to cause superfluous injury. Additional Protocol I (1977) of the Geneva Conventions contains four rules that are of particular relevance to the use of cluster munitions in or near populated areas:

- Rule of proportionality: attacks must balance military advantage with civilian impact
- Rule of distinction: attacks must distinguish between military and civilian objects
- Rule against indiscriminate attacks: attacks unable to distinguish are prohibited
- Rule on feasible precautions: maximum care must be taken to avoid civilian injury

'Dumb' and 'smart' munitions

States that use the weapon assert that its humanitarian effects can be reduced by replacing 'dumb' models with the latest 'smart' models, which have a target discrimination or self-deactivation mechanism. But smart bombs still fail, so the move to smart bombs will not override the humanitarian problems caused. Nor will it regulate improper use of the weapon.

Progress towards a treaty

Attempts in the mid-1970s to introduce a treaty regulating cluster munitions contributed to the establish-

ment in 1980 of the UN Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW):

- The CCW is dedicated to restrictions against weapons with indiscriminate effects.
- In 2003, states negotiated CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) – the first multilateral agreement aimed at minimising post-conflict effects of such weapons.
- States parties must remove their ERW from their territories and facilitate their removal from other territories; record and share information; and take all feasible precautions to protect humanitarian activities and civilians from ERW.
- It entered into force in November 2006 and has been ratified by 31 states, but only France out of the P5 is currently a state party.
- The CCW has failed so far to address specifically the particular problems associated with cluster munitions.

The shortcomings of the CCW have led to attempts to develop a prohibition regime outside of its framework. The most prominent of these attempts was launched at a conference in Oslo hosted by the Norwegian government from 21 to 23 February 2007.

The Oslo process

- 46 out of 49 states committed to 'conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument' to 'prohibit cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm'.
- The UK, France, Italy, Germany and Switzerland shifted their stance to a stronger position than held prior to the conference.
- Key states emphasised the continued UN role in developing a treaty, highlighting the complementary nature of the Oslo process and the CCW in their closing remarks.
- Future meetings will take place in Lima on 22-25 May 2007, at which a treaty text will be discussed, in Vienna in late 2007 and Dublin in early 2008.

To the disappointment of the NGO participants, explicit mention of a moratorium on the weapon's use was removed from the final text of the conference's declaration, and only cluster munitions that 'cause unacceptable harm' were included in the scope of the proposed treaty.

UNA-UK, with its partners in the Cluster Munitions Coalition, calls on the UK to cease immediately the use of all forms of cluster munitions.



Ban's Team

The new Secretary-General has assembled a strong management team



The New Deputy Secretary-General

Asha-Rose Migiro of Tanzania took office as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on 1 February 2007. She is the third Deputy Secretary-General to be appointed since the post was established in 1997. The previous postholders were Louise Fréchette of Canada and Mark Malloch Brown of the UK.

From 2006 to 2007, Dr Migiro served as Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation – the first woman to hold that position since the country's independence in 1961. Before that, she served for five years as Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children.

Dr Migiro was previously a member of the Faculty of Law at the University of Dar es Salaam, and in 2000 served as a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Dr Migiro obtained a master of laws from the University of Dar es Salaam in 1984 and a doctorate in law from the University of Konstanz in Germany in 1992.

Dr Migiro was born in Songea, Tanzania, on 9 July 1956, and is married with two daughters.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has now assembled his senior management team. A guide to the appointments (approximately a third have been retained from Mr Annan's time) can be found on the adjacent page.

It is laudable that many of Ban's initial appointments are from developing countries and/or are women, although progress towards gender parity at higher levels of the UN is far from complete. Ban has received praise for opening up jobs in his office to greater competition from the wider UN Secretariat, and for the public disclosure of his personal finances.

On 15 March 2007 the UN General Assembly gave broad approval for the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the establishment of an Office for Disarmament Affairs, with a new High Representative for Disarmament. The details of these proposals remain to be negotiated by the Assembly. UNA-UK fully supports improvements to the UN Secretariat to make it more effective and efficient. We do not feel that this is incompatible with retaining an independent and geographically diverse international civil service. We will provide updates on Mr Ban's reform initiatives in future issues of *New World*.



Asha-Rose Migiro
Tanzania
Deputy Secretary-General



Louise Arbour
Canada
High Commissioner for Human Rights



Alicia Bárcena Ibarra
Mexico
Management



Marek Belka
Poland
Economic Commission for Europe



Radhika Coomaraswamy
Sri Lanka
Children & Armed Conflict



Jean-Marie Guéhenno
France
Peacekeeping Operations



António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres
Portugal
UN Refugee Agency



John Holmes
UK
Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator



Abdoulle Janneh
Gambia
Economic Commission for Africa



Antonio Maria Costa
Italy
UN Office at Vienna and Drugs & Crime



Kemal Dervis
Turkey
UN Development Programme



Thoraya Ahmed Obaid
Saudi Arabia
UN Population Fund



Sha Zukang
China
Economic & Social Affairs



Sergei Ordzhonikidze
Russia
UN Office at Geneva



Supachai Panitchpakdi
Thailand
UN Conference on Trade & Development



Josette Sheeran
USA
World Food Programme



Vijay Nambiar
India
Chef de Cabinet



Achim Steiner
Germany
UN Environment Programme



Kiyotaka Akasaka
Japan
Public Information



Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
Tanzania
UN Human Settlements Programme



Ann M. Veneman
USA
UN Children's Fund



B. Lynn Pascoe
USA
Political Affairs



Muhammad Shaaban
Egypt
General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management



David Veness
UK
Safety & Security



José Luis Machinea
Argentina
Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean



Rachel Mayanja
Uganda
Gender Issues & Advancement of Women



Nicolas Michel
Switzerland
Legal Affairs



Inga-Britt Ahlenius
Sweden
OBSERVER Internal Oversight Services

The following members of the senior management team have resigned, but are still in service awaiting replacement at the time of writing



Nobuaki Tanaka
Japan
Disarmament Affairs



Mervat M. Tallawy
Egypt
Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia



Kim Hak-Su
Republic of Korea
Economic & Social Commission for Asia & Pacific



Anwarul Karim Chowdhury
Bangladesh
Least Developed Countries, Landlocked & Small Island Developing States

Commission on the Status of Women

The 51st session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place in New York from 26 February to 9 March 2007. **Suzanne Long**, Chair of the Women's Advisory Council, attended on behalf of UNA-UK.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is 61 years old, but like the UN itself it still finds it has much to do in its mandate for the elimination of discrimination between the genders. CSW is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, so its membership consists of delegations from the governments currently elected to it. The degree to which the governmental delegations value the input of NGOs is notable. This is not to say that each government doesn't have its own views on what is good for women, or that these views always coincide with what the women's organisations think. Nowhere is this more evident than in the debate over the relationship between 'culture' and 'tradition', on the one hand, and the role of women, on the other, as well as over what are euphemistically called 'reproductive health rights'.

Over the last 10 years, the Commission has been reviewing progress on the 12 areas of concern identified in the 'Platform for Action' delineated at the Beijing World Conference on Women in 1995, and trying to secure implementation of the commitments then entered into. An added impetus comes from the Millennium Development Goals – none of which can be achieved without the contribution of women. Sensibly, the CSW does not attempt to cover everything at once (it meets for only 10 days a year) but specialises in one area each year. The main focus in 2007 is the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, with follow-up on a topic considered in 2004: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality.

The term 'girl child' – rather than just plain 'girl' – is not verbose for the sake of it, but rather serves to emphasise that, in statis-

tics and reports, the use of 'child' or 'children' disguises the following reality: it is mainly girl children who die at birth, who do not attend



Photo © UN/DPI



school, who do not receive enough food, and who are at most risk of HIV/AIDS. In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child's call for youth participation, 240 girls (i.e. those under 18 years of age) were present at this year's CSW – a shock for the UN which normally doesn't admit such dangerous people!

The Commission begins with its 'Agreed Conclusions' which, initially, are neither conclusions nor agreed. This draft document is debated and amended word by word until the final picture emerges (see www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw). There is also a handful of resolutions, which are treated as having a lower status. One interesting resolution this year was on female genital mutilation (or 'cutting', for

those who feel that 'mutilation' is too harsh on certain cultures). This particular resolution was proposed by the group of African countries, led by South Africa, and was, encouragingly, carried with little dissent. Another resolution, which did not have an easy ride, was on forced and early marriage, and was proposed by the US. Though no one disputes the general unacceptability of such marriages, on the adjectives, disagreement abounded (after all, the UK's minimum age for marriage is 16, when girls and boys are still technically children). Some countries felt the issue was so important it should be reflected in the Agreed Conclusions, and not left to a resolution.

A prominent interest among many of the NGOs was the future of the UN's 'gender

equality architecture'. This bit of UN-speak refers to the recommendation of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence that all the myriad funds and agencies which currently carry out the work of the UN on women's issues should be consolidated into one body, properly funded and led by a senior member of the UN Secretariat. Both the current Secretary-General and his predecessor enthusiastically endorse this proposal, and most countries view it as an effective way of moving the UN forward. But some countries disagree, favouring the status quo. Still others think that women should know their place – clearly, strengthening the gender architecture of the UN is not at the top of their agenda!



International Women's Day 2007: Ending impunity for violence against women and girls

On 8 March 2007, International Women's Day was celebrated around the world. This year's theme was 'Ending impunity for violence against women and girls'.

In the UK, 8 March also marked the one-year anniversary of the UK's National Action Plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which was adopted in 2000 as a means of promoting women's equal participation in peacebuilding and in broader efforts to maintain peace and security. The National Action Plan is a cross-departmental initiative involving the FCO, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development and its purpose is to set out how the UK will contribute to the realisation of UNSCR 1325.

To commemorate this year's International Women's Day, the FCO hosted a seminar to assess the UK's progress towards implementing UNSCR 1325. The seminar was an opportunity for government representatives and NGOs to come together to identify priorities for implementing UNSCR 1325 at the national, regional and international levels.

Katherine Ronderos attended the seminar on behalf of UNA-UK, as its representative on 'GAPS' – Gender Action for Peace and Security. UNA-UK has been a member of GAPS since 2005 as part of its work on raising awareness and furthering implementation of UNSCR 1325.

GAPS is a network of NGOs which aims to provide specialist support to policy-makers engaged in promoting the role of women in peace and security. Other GAPS partners include: International Alert, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (UK), Soroptimist International, Womankind Worldwide, and UNIFEM-UK.

View the UK's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on www.una.org.uk



6 FILMS

not to miss

Carla's List (2006)

Director: Marcel Schüpbach

Behind the scenes of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, prosecutor Carla Del Ponte is working to track down and bring to justice seven suspects, including Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, before a September 2007 deadline. The film features footage of the Srebrenica atrocities and interviews with women still waiting for news of their missing husbands and children 10 years on.

Blood Diamond (2006)

Director: Edward Zwick

Against the backdrop of the Sierra Leone civil war, the film tells the moving tale of a South African mercenary-turned-diamond-smuggler (Leonardo DiCaprio) and a local fisherman (Djimon Hounsou) whose lives become inextricably linked after the fisherman's son is taken by rebels during an attack on his village.

The DVD will be released in the UK on 21 May 2007. A two-disc special edition is also available, featuring documentaries including Blood on the Stone (which follows a diamond's path from the ground to a shop) and Journalism on the Front Line (stories of female journalists in warzones).

The Peacekeepers (2005)

Director: Paul Cowan

The Peacekeepers portrays the UN's desperate struggle to avert disaster in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The film shifts between the Department of Peacekeeping and the UN mission on the ground, and follows the peacekeepers as they balance the risk of losing lives with the limited donor resources available, while trying to overcome the painful memory of the Rwandan genocide.

Bamako (2007)

Director: Abderrahmane Sissako

Bamako, capital city of Mali: a couple struggles to save their relationship in the midst of crushing economic hardship. As they fight to preserve their marriage, their neighbours hold a mock trial of the World Bank and the IMF in the town courtyard, holding them accountable for the abject poverty that they, and the rest of Africa, are experiencing.

North by Northwest (1959)

Director: Alfred Hitchcock

This fast-paced, glamorous espionage thriller is about an innocent advertising executive caught up in the Cold War tension of 1950s America. After being framed for the murder of a UN official, he is pursued across the country by spies, the police, and the FBI. The UN headquarters in New York is one of this classic film's primary locations.

Wake Up World (2007)

Director: Carlo Nero

Produced by acclaimed actress and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Vanessa Redgrave, this documentary commemorates 60 years of UNICEF's work for children around the world. Directed by her son, the film features exclusive interviews with former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman, and Sir Richard Jolly, former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and former UNA-UK Chair.

A number of UNA-UK members attended a London premiere of the film, hosted by Vanessa and UNICEF-UK's President Lord Puttnam. The film was introduced by Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development, who said: "The contribution that UNICEF has made is like the shining light upon the world, the shining beacon of our human conscience. It is this which motivates many of you to support UNICEF as an organisation."



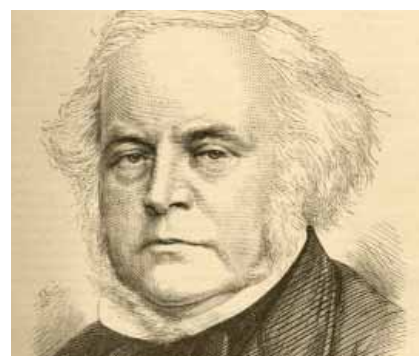
Sam Daws, Vanessa Redgrave, Christiane Amanpour and Lord Puttnam. Photo © UNICEF-UK/Amy Gordon





JOHN WHO?

**The eminent
origins of
the UNA-UK
John Bright
Peace and
Security
Programme**



Fiona Gow represents North-West region on the UNA-UK Board of Directors and is a member of Birkenhead branch. Here she provides insight into the life and pioneering work of John Bright, the distinguished Victorian politician after whom UNA-UK's Peace and Security Programme is named. The John Bright post – currently held by Tim Kellow – is funded by an endowment established through the initiative of UNA-UK member Nicholas Gillett, John Bright's great-grandson.

When I first heard of the John Bright Fellowship at UNA-UK the name meant little. But then I saw a Victorian mug in a Barmouth junk shop with Bright's portrait on one side and Gladstone's on the other and I felt I should know more. So I bought the mug and did some reading and I am now convinced John Bright should feature in the national curriculum!

Repeal of the Corn Laws and Parliament

John Bright was born in 1811, the son of a cotton mill owner in Rochdale. His first major foray into politics was to campaign for the repeal of the Corn Laws which kept prices high for farmers, but led the poor to starve. He worked closely with Richard Cobden: at public meetings Cobden provided the facts and Bright the passion.

After the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, Bright entered Parliament. With Cobden he successfully campaigned against the duty on newspapers, in effect a tax on free speech. This led to greater availability of daily newspapers for ordinary people.

Opposition to the Crimean War

Bright was not a pacifist, but was against British intervention when no national interest was involved. When majority opinion favoured war with Russia, he opposed it. When the Crimean

War began and casualty figures mounted, he continued to speak against the war. Many politicians privately shared his views, but only Bright had the courage to express them, taking abuse calmly. And in 1854, on the morning before the Battle of Inkerman, the *Times* published his famous letter in which he stated, "I will have no part in this terrible crime."

He failed to influence events then, but was listened to subsequently. It was in part thanks to him that Britain fought no more wars for 20 years.

US Civil War

John Bright led the opposition to calls that Britain should help the slave-owners of the American South. His letters to the Northern Senator, Charles Sumner, were read out in Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet and proved a vital channel of communication, particularly important when there was a possibility of war with Britain.

Bright's efforts were so much appreciated by the North that, after Lincoln's death, he was said to be "the most popular man in America".

Bright and Gladstone

In domestic politics Bright worked closely with William Gladstone, first in the campaign to extend the franchise, which culminated in the Reform Act of 1867. When Gladstone formed his first government in 1868, Bright became President of the Board of Trade. As a natural backbencher, he accepted office reluctantly; but his appoint-

ment was a landmark. He was the first non-conformist in the Cabinet and the first member from relatively humble origins.

Gladstone's later reforms included the establishment of national education, and the opening of universities to dissenters. He was building on 30 years of campaigning by Bright, and together the two men made a major contribution to social progress in the Victorian age. No wonder their portraits grace many a mug!

Bright's Quakerism

Bright's Quaker principles were the bedrock of his politics and he never compromised them. His final political act was to resign from the Cabinet, in protest at the bombardment of Alexandria.

As a plain-speaking non-conformist who supported the interests of the working man, John Bright was never popular in the House of Commons. But he was greatly admired – and feared – for his oratory, and was respected as a brave and honest man and as the greatest radical politician of his day.

His determined pursuit of his goals makes him an impressive role model. And with his concern for the poor, for human rights like free speech and universal education, and his efforts at conflict prevention and resolution, he was pursuing the UN agenda ahead of his time. The UNA-UK John Bright Peace and Security Programme is well named.



HEY G8!

THE WORLD CAN'T WAIT!

The World Can't Wait: Your Voice Against Poverty is a diverse coalition of NGOs which first came together in 2005 under the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** banner to put pressure on governments to end poverty. This new coalition – of which UNA-UK is a member – aims to build upon the successes of 2005 to make world leaders realise that the world can't wait for:

- more debt cancellation
- more and better aid
- trade justice
- healthcare, education, water and sanitation for all
- firm plans to prevent catastrophic climate change and address its impacts

WHY NOW?

On 6-8 June 2007, world leaders will meet at the G8 summit in Germany. This summit also marks the halfway point for achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals, which governments pledged to fulfil by 2015.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Visit www.yourvoiceagainstopoverty.org.uk and take these actions:

- **E-mail Merkel now!**
Germany holds the EU presidency and chairs the G8. E-mail German Chancellor Angela Merkel to ask her to put poverty at the top of the political agenda. Your e-mail will be copied to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair.
- **Get your MP to sign EDM 1219!**
This Early Day Motion calls on parliamentarians to support the aims of the World Can't Wait. To check whether your MP has signed it, visit <http://edmi.parliament.uk>
- **Ring the alarm on 2 June!**
Give Tony Blair a good send-off as he heads for Germany! Join a massive gathering on the banks of the River Thames. Wear white, bring your alarm clock or mobile phone alarm, and raise your voice against poverty.

If you can't make it to London, the website also features a toolkit with materials and ideas on how to host a local event.



**YOUR VOICE
AGAINST POVERTY**



UNA-UK

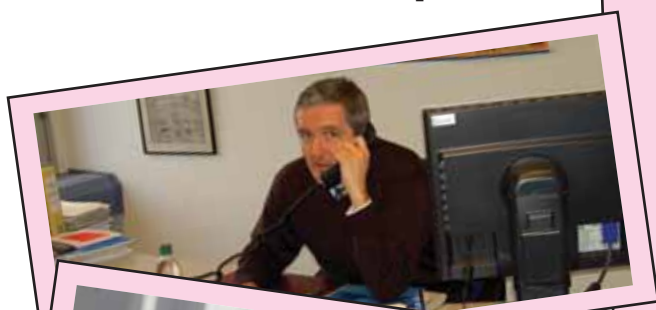
www.una.org.uk/theworldcantwait



The Membership **at Work**

UNA-UK branches around the country have been as active as ever, organising events and innovative initiatives to raise awareness of the UN and its work.

Here are a few examples...



East Gloucestershire branch has been continuing its work to foster international dialogue. Richard Bell, First Secretary in the Political Section of the US Embassy, spoke to the branch about the US's relationship with the UN. Bell noted the US's interest in a strong role for the Security Council in world affairs, and spoke of the implications of the 'responsibility to protect' and the importance of carrying out the project of reform proposed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to enhance the organisation's effectiveness and efficiency.



The branch is also keeping up its close friendship with Christian Häberli, Director of UNA Switzerland. UNA Switzerland was a strong advocate of its country's membership of the UN in the run-up to the Swiss referendum on accession in 2002. Häberli has noted that, despite Switzerland's reputation for active diplomacy, the Swiss remain as sceptical as ever towards grand ambitions. UNA Switzerland has shaped its objectives accordingly, focusing pragmatically on improving the understanding of the UN in Swiss civil society and on influencing Swiss policy formulation in the UN General Assembly.

On 10 February **Harpenden** branch celebrated its 60th anniversary by convening an event to raise awareness of community involvement in Africa. The 'Harpenden in Africa' morning saw local schools, faith-based groups and civil society organisations come together to share information about development projects in countries such as Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Writing of the event to mark the six-decade history of Harpenden UNA, branch activist Sonia Ayres said, "This was one diamond anniversary which really did sparkle."

Bexhill & Hastings branch has been doing its bit to learn more about the origins of the conflict in the Middle East. On 24 February it hosted a talk by Rolf Killingbeck, a well-known local speaker, who spoke about Palestinian history and argued that the current struggle stems from 450 years of tensions.

Exeter branch has been taking a page out of the BBC's book: it recently held its very own 'Question Time' featuring a panel which included local MP and DEFRA minister Ben Bradshaw as well as Jemma Percy, President of the Exeter University Students' Guild. Over 100 people attended to put UN-related questions to the panellists. The branch has also been striving to reach out to new groups – it has recently produced an excellent UNA calendar which it plans to distribute to local libraries.

On 5 March, **Saffron Walden & District** branch made a contribution to the debate over the necessity of renewing Trident, the UK's nuclear-weapon system, when it hosted a talk by Professor Robert A. Hinde, Chair of the British Pugwash Group. Professor Hinde asserted that nuclear weapons were both immoral and illegal, questioned the independence of the UK's deterrent, and argued that nuclear weapons were ill-suited to the threats faced by the UK today.



All photos courtesy of the branch



Future UNA branch, regional and national events

UNA West Oxfordshire

On Thursday, 19 April at 8pm, at The Cottages, Charlbury, Alan Phillips, member of UNA-UK's Policy Advisory Committee and minority rights expert, will give a talk on 'The United Nations and Kosovo'. Further details are available from Malcolm Harper on 01608 810 464 or on malcolm.harper@ukonline.co.uk

UNA Bath & District

On Monday, 23 April at 7.30pm, branch chair Gordon Glass will be speaking on 'Creating a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly: launching the international campaign'. This public meeting will be at the BRLSI at 18-20 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN. Further details are available from Gordon Glass on 01225 337 400 (voicemail) or unabath@spamex.com. Alternatively, visit www.unabath.org.uk and www.unpacampaign.org

UNA West Oxfordshire

On Tuesday, 24 April from 10am to 12pm, at The Cottages in Charlbury, the branch will hold a coffee morning in support of the

World Food Programme's emergency flood relief work in Burundi. All enquiries should be directed to Malcolm Harper on 01608 810 464 or by e-mail on malcolm.harper@ukonline.co.uk

UNA Enfield & the Barnets

On Thursday, 26 April from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, the branch is co-hosting an open discussion on 'Migration, Asylum and Human Rights' in partnership with the Social Policy Research Centre of Middlesex University. The event will be held in Room P8 in Middlesex University's Pascal Building and there will be a panel of speakers. E-mail fs@tmdnet.net for more information.

UNA Birmingham

On 28 April at 7pm, the branch will host its annual international supper party. This year the theme is Latin American, and the venue is St Columba's United Reformed Church, Moseley, Birmingham. For more information contact Gillian Briggs on 01214 496 032.

UNA Cambridge University, with Cambridge Globalist magazine

On 1 May (TBC), Mark Rusling, UNA-UK's Campaigns & Education Officer, will speak on 'The UN, the EU, the AU and You' at the launch of the next issue of the *Cambridge Globalist*. For more information contact Brittany Krupica on president@cuuna.org or visit www.cuuna.org

UNA Shipley & Baildon

On Tuesday, 1 May, at 7.30pm, the branch will hold its AGM at St John's Church Hall, Baildon. The meeting will include a discussion on truth and reconciliation processes. The speaker will be Reverend Demetris Palos, who is currently undertaking a three-month ministry at the Methodist Church, Baildon. He was formerly in the Justice and Reconciliation Department of the African Churches Office where he worked for five years with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. For further details please contact Thelma de Leeuw on 01274 481 645 or tdel@globalnet.co.uk

Globe for Darfur

UNA-UK has joined the Globe for Darfur, an international coalition of NGOs formed in response to the weak international approach to the crisis in Darfur. The conflict has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced another 2.5 million.

The Sudanese government continues to block the deployment of a proposed hybrid United Nations-African Union

peacekeeping force, despite having agreed to it in December 2006 in the face of mounting international pressure. It is even backtracking on an agreement for an interim UN support package for the AU.

On 29 April 2007 – the fourth anniversary of the start of the conflict – Globe for Darfur is staging its third international day of action to draw attention to the plight of the people of the region and to encourage decisive action by the international community to stop the violence and support the ceasefire.

For more information about Globe for Darfur and UNA-UK's webpage on Darfur see www.una.org.uk/protectdarfur

GLOBE FOR DARFUR



**UNA West Oxfordshire**

On Tuesday, 1 May at 8pm at The Cottages in Charlbury, there will be an open discussion forum focusing on two key issues: 1) the banning of all categories of cluster bomb; and 2) options in Iraq and Afghanistan. The findings will be shared with our MP, David Cameron. All enquiries should be directed to Malcolm Harper on 01608 810 464 or malcolm.harper@ukonline.co.uk

UNA Harpenden

On Saturday, 12 May at 11am, the branch will hold a public meeting at the Quaker Meeting House, 12 Southdown Road, Harpenden. Professor Andrew Tomkins, Director of the Centre for International Child Health at the University of London, will speak on the subject '11 million child deaths per year – what can the UN do?'.

UNA Southampton

On Saturday, 12 May from 12pm to 2pm, the branch will host an event on the 'Maasai in the 21st century: maintaining ancient traditions, facing new challenges' at Edmund Kell Hall, Bellevue Road, Southampton. There will also be an optional light lunch, Traidcraft stall and sale of Maasai jewellery. Contact Margaret Matthews on 023 8055 7334 for more information.

UNA Stratford-upon-Avon

On Saturday, 12 May at 1.30pm, Sam Daws,

Executive Director of UNA-UK, will give a talk entitled 'The UN in a changing world: irrelevant or indispensable?'. The event will be held at Holy Trinity Parish Hall. For more information, call Dorothy Marshall 01789 268 517.

UNA West Oxfordshire

On Tuesday, 22 May at 8pm, Sam Daws, Executive Director of UNA-UK, will deliver a talk entitled 'The UN: past successes and future challenges'. For more information contact Malcolm Harper on 01608 810 464 or malcolm.harper@ukonline.co.uk

UNA Westminster

On Wednesday, 23 May, UNA Westminster will hold its fourth annual conference to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall SW1. The Folke Bernadotte lecture addressing post-conflict issues will be given by Professor Paul Collier, Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economics, University of Oxford. Other presentations will cover the role of private security companies, the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and African Union peacekeeping. The wreath-laying ceremony will take place at 1pm at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. To request further information please e-mail

info@unawestminster.org.uk or visit the UNA Westminster branch website at www.unawestminster.org.uk

UNA Bexhill & Hastings

On Monday, 28 May from 10am to 12 noon, the branch will hold a coffee morning at 13 Thornbank Crescent. There will be an open organic fruit and vegetable garden. The cost is £1.50, which covers coffee and home-made biscuits. Contact Allan Bula on 01424 210 410 for further details.

Young Professionals Network

On 20 June, UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network is hosting, in collaboration with UNHCR in London, an event to mark World Refugee Day. For more information visit www.una.org.uk/ypn

UNA Southern Counties

On Saturday, 30 June from 2pm to 4pm, UNA Southern Counties will hold its AGM at the Friends Meeting House in Newbury. Sam Daws, Executive Director of UNA-UK, will give the keynote speech, entitled 'The UN: past successes and future challenges'. For more information contact Fanny Lines on 01483 285 229.

Please note also that the regional annual conference will take place on 1-2 September at Chichester University.

UNA Exchange: volunteering across Wales and the world!

UNA Exchange, a charity in Wales, grew out of UNA-UK in the early 1970s when International Service, a former UNA-UK programme, discontinued its UK-based work to focus on long-term volunteering in developing countries. Today, UNA Exchange coordinates community-based volunteering across Wales and in more than 50 countries worldwide. (It still works very closely with UNA Wales, and even has its offices in the same building!)

To help it carry out its exciting work, UNA Exchange has launched a new website: www.unaexchange.org. The site is packed full of information and news about international volunteering opportunities and has an online project search and application facility – volunteers can choose from almost 1,500 two- to three-week projects in more than 50 countries. You could find yourself volunteering to build a school in Kenya, help with turtle conservation work in Mexico, or work with school children in Japan.

For more details and to apply, visit the website!





Also of interest . . .

Trade Justice Movement

TJM is coordinating a rally and group visits to EU embassies across London to demand an end to unfair trade deals with developing countries. The rally will take place on 19 April, starting at 11am. For more information and to register, visit www.tjm.org.uk/event2007.shtml

University of Wales, Aberystwyth

On 25 April at 7.30pm, The David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies will host its annual lecture in Old Hall, Old College, King Street, Aberystwyth. John Gittings will speak on 'After Trident: Peace or Proliferation'. For more information contact Rachel Owen at ddmstaff@aber.ac.uk

Jubilee Debt Campaign

On 28 April at 11am, the Jubilee Debt Campaign will hold its annual conference. The event will take place at South Camden

Community School, NW1. There will be a number of speakers on the subject of 'Debt and Power: breaking the chains of economic slavery'. To book a place or for additional information, e-mail events@jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk or call 020 7324 4722.

International Rescue Committee UK (IRC-UK)

Sir Mark Malloch Brown, former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, will give this year's IRC-UK annual lecture. Entitled 'The Politics of Humanitarianism after Iraq', the lecture will take place on Monday, 25 June at 7pm at the Royal Geographical Society (Exhibition Road entrance, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR). Sir Mark will be introduced by Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Director of the Ditchley Foundation and IRC-UK Trustee.

Tickets cost £30 (lecture and reception); £15 (lecture only); or £8 (concession). All proceeds from the evening will go towards the IRC's work in responding to the immediate needs of people fleeing violent conflict or oppression and helping them to rebuild their communities and achieve sustainable peace.

For reservations please call 020 7692 2737 or e-mail events@ircuk.org

Lectures at the LSE

From Kosovo to the Caucasus: lessons of conflict management in the Balkans and the CIS

Event: roundtable discussion and reception

Date: 1 May 2007

Time: 6.30-8pm

Venue: Hong Kong Theatre, Clement House

Speakers: Kai Eide (UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Comprehensive Review of Kosovo), Frode Muring (UN Resident Coordinator in Kosovo), Dr Gwendolyn Sasse (LSE), Ben Slay (Director of UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre), and Kori Udovicki (UNDP Regional Director for Europe and CIS)

Chair: Dr James Hughes

Do War Crime Trials Do More Harm Than Good?

Event: lecture

Date: 3 May 2007

Time: 6.30-8pm

Venue: Old Theatre, Old Building

Speakers: Professor Richard Goldstone (former Chief Prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and member of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the UN Oil-for-Food

Programme) and Leslie Vinjamuri (Assistant Professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service)

Stop Violence Against Women Campaign: the challenges ahead

Event: lecture

Date: 10 May 2007

Time: 6.30-8pm

Venue: New Theatre, East Building

Speaker: Kate Allen (Director of Amnesty International UK)

International Military Interventions and the Constraints Facing the United Nations

Event: lecture

Date: 17 May 2007

Time: 6-7.30pm

Venue: Old Theatre, Old Building

Speaker: Lt Gen. the Hon. Roméo Dallaire (Canadian Senator and formerly Force Commander of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda)

Chair: Dr James Putzel

All events are free and open to all with no ticket required. Entry is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, e-mail events@lse.ac.uk, call 020 7955 6043 or visit www.lse.ac.uk



LETTERS

Thank you from the Harpers

When I was retiring as Director of UNA-UK, the members very generously opened a fund in order to give Ann and me a present. We used part of it to purchase a large framed 'History of the Origin of the Ashes' which outlined the start of the keen Ashes rivalry on the cricket field between England and Australia since 1882.

We also received a most handsome cheque which we temporarily invested but have now used on a superb two-month visit to Australia and New Zealand, watching the Ashes matches in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney (fascinating cricket despite the result!), travelling to Alice Springs and Uluru, taking the train for 36 hours across the Nullarbor Plain, experiencing the coldest Christmas Day on record in Melbourne, meeting UNA-Australia members in Brisbane and Perth, enjoying coffee and a chat with Keith Suter in Sydney (whom some members will remember as the UNA-UK Youth Officer in the early 1970s), staying with Graeme and Yvonne Warner (he was formerly the UNIC Director in London), and visiting cousins in Melbourne, New South Wales and, briefly, New Zealand. On our way home we spent 36 hours in Hong Kong and saw my nephew who is working there.

We fell deeply in love with both Australia and New Zealand and hope very much to visit again. Meanwhile, we would like to express our warm thanks to everyone who made this truly wonderful trip possible. We are so grateful to you all. You could not have given us a nicer gift!

With every good wish,

Ann and Malcolm (Harpers)
UNA West Oxfordshire

Contraction and Convergence

Climate change is caused by emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere through human activity – about this there is now no scientific dispute. These emissions have to be reduced.

The concept of contraction and convergence ('C&C') was proposed by the Global Commons Institute in 1990 as a means of reaching a just global agreement on the reduction of carbon emissions.

The basic idea is one of equity and fairness. People the world over have equal rights to use the atmosphere, and should have similarly equal 'rights' to pollute it through carbon emissions – or, to put it another way, should have equal responsibilities to ensure that emissions do not exceed a globally accepted level. This means that countries that pollute most have to contract and reduce their emissions most, while those which currently pollute least may be able to increase their emissions, until a point is reached at which per capita emissions of all countries converge to the same level. Countries at least initially would be able to trade carbon emission rights.

Governments have to agree on the maximum level of carbon dioxide that can be permitted in the atmosphere, and the date by which global per capita shares converge to maintain that level. The most plausible way of achieving such agreement is through the 'simultaneous policy' strategy (see John Bunzl, *The Simultaneous Policy*, 2001) whereby governments will not be required to act unilaterally and thus risk economic disadvantage, but will simultaneously implement agreed measures, and thus preserve level playing fields.

In the meantime governments can and should take immediate practical steps to control emissions in their own countries,

through promoting citizen awareness and consultations about energy sources, transport policy, building regulations, and the possibility of carbon rationing for individuals. Experience shows that the public will accept rigorous measures if they are recognised as necessary and are implemented fairly (as in Britain during World War II). But, as Sir Crispin Tickell has warned, substantial measures are unlikely to be taken until three conditions are met: strong leadership from the top and strong pressure from the bottom – along with a monumental catastrophe.

J. P. Greaves

UNA Blackheath & Greenwich

Cause for concern?

Iran's nuclear ambitions are a cause for great concern, as is the belligerent language of the current US administration, which suggests that George W. Bush would be prepared to launch an attack on Iran.

This problem is complicated by the US's lack of credibility since the debunking of its claims about the Iraqi WMD programme prior to the 2003 invasion. How can anyone now believe the US, given the misinformation disseminated about Iraq? Furthermore, it appears to me that George W. Bush would proceed with military action in defiance of Congress in the same way he is defying it over the 'surge' of extra troops to Iraq.

I believe it was Ken Livingstone who said that George W. Bush was a dangerous man, and I agree with him entirely. In my opinion, Messrs Bush and Blair have ignited the fuse which has effectively started World War III.

David J. Thomas
UNA Wales



Cause for hope?

I believe there are new factors in the Israel–Palestine dispute which should encourage a revival of diplomatic efforts for peace.

First of these is the desperate humanitarian and human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza documented by UN agencies and NGOs. In 2005 the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) together with the World Food Programme (WFP) warned of a crisis of poverty and food shortages in the occupied territories. OCHA and WFP further stated that the Agreement on Movement and Access signed in 2005 by Israeli and Palestinian authorities had not made the hoped-for improvements. In his September 2006 report to the Human Rights Council, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 said, "It is pointless for the Special Rapporteur to recommend to the government of Israel that it show respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. More authoritative bodies, notably the

International Court of Justice and the Security Council, have made similar appeals with... little success."

In relation to the crucial Hamas rejection of the Israeli state there may be movement. Last summer a number of largely Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails published an open letter saying they might modify their rejectionist stance. More recently Khaled Meshaal, the political head of Hamas who is resident in Damascus, issued a statement to the Damascus press which was quoted in the British magazine *The Week* (20 January 2007): "Damascus accepts the reality of the state of Israel." *The Week* continues, "Although he stopped short of offering official recognition, Khaled Meshaal called for the establishment of the Palestinian state on the 1967 borders, and admitted this meant leaving an entity or state called Israel outside the rest of Palestinian lands."

It is an open secret that unofficial contacts are taking place between Israeli and Palestinian representatives. Confidentiality is no doubt essential to both unofficial and official diplomacy but equally essential is strong public

opinion supporting their efforts. UNA-UK should be part of that and should furthermore publicise the significant contribution of UN agencies and missions to peace efforts since the establishment of Israel.

Betty Scharf

UNA Hendon

The editor welcomes letters from readers. Submissions should be typed and should not exceed 300 words. Letters should ideally be submitted by e-mail to lie@una.org.uk; or they can be posted to: **The Editor, New World, UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.** The deadline for receipt of letters for the July–September 2007 issue is 4 June 2007.

UNA-UK notes with regret the death of Joyce Croad, Honorary Life Member of UNA-UK and tireless campaigner for both the Association and UNICEF. For a copy of the obituary written by Alison Williams contact Mark Rusling on 020 7766 3459.

UNA-UK's website: the next generation

At Annual Conference 2007, UNA-UK will be unveiling the next incarnation of its website, designed by Matt Ripley, who is contracted by UNA-UK on a part-time basis to oversee and develop the Association's ever-improving site. The new website boasts more multimedia features, a sleeker, more modern design, better navigability and accessibility for the visually impaired, and a host of resources on the United Nations and the work of UNA-UK. The website is central to UNA-UK's strategy for reaching out to new groups and maintaining the growth in our youth membership.

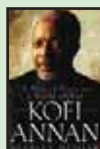
Matt will host interactive presentations of the revamped website at Annual Conference, and at UNYSA's parallel conference, for interested members and delegates. If you have not been able to attend either conference but would like to comment on the new website, we would love to hear your thoughts on how best we can develop the site's capabilities and content, and how we can better market UNA-UK in cyberspace. Please visit www.una.org.uk and then e-mail your views to website@una.org.uk



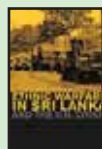


RESOURCES

Recent books on the UN



**Kofi Annan:
A Man of Peace in a World of War**
Stanley Meisler
John Wiley & Sons Inc., January 2007



**Ethnic Warfare in Sri Lanka and
the UN Crisis**
William Clarence
Pluto Press, December 2006



**Secretary or General?:
The UN Secretary-General in
World Politics**
Kofi Annan (foreword),
Simon Chesterman (ed.)
Cambridge University Press, May 2007



**Annual Review of Global Peace
Operations 2007**
Center on International Cooperation,
New York University
Lynne Rienner, June 2007



**After Anarchy: Legitimacy and Power
in the United Nations Security Council**
Ian Hurd
Princeton University Press, July 2007



The Making of International Law
Alan Boyle and Christine Chinkin
Oxford University Press, February 2007



**UN Peacekeeping in Lebanon, Somalia
and Kosovo: Operational and Legal
Issues in Practice**
Ray Murphy
Cambridge University Press, May 2007



**The Economics of Climate Change:
The Stern Review**
Nicholas Stern
Cambridge University Press, January 2007



**Not for Sale: The Return of the Global
Slave Trade - And How We Can Fight It**
David Batstone
HarperCollins, February 2007



Does Foreign Aid Really Work?
Roger Riddell
Oxford University Press, April 2007



Jacko, Where Are You Now?

A Life of Robert Jackson
By James Gibson

Robert Jackson (1911-1991), a UN official described by Sir Brian Urquhart as "the greatest disaster manager and large-scale relief operator of the 20th century", is the subject of a biography written by James Gibson, a personal friend of Jackson.

The book is available to UNA-UK members at a discounted rate of £20 (20 per cent off the full price). To purchase a copy, send a cheque for £20 (made out to Parsons Publishing) to Rosedale, 200 Petersham Road, Richmond TW10 7AD, enclosing a note stating membership of UNA-UK.

The publisher and author can be contacted at 020 8940 9897 or parsonspublishing@btinternet.com

UNA-UK member Luckshan Abeysuriya has written of his experience of visiting Bosnia. To obtain a copy of his self-published account, please telephone the author on 01539 532 961 or write to him at 'Mallaig', The Crescent, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6AW.



UN System Websites: Recent Additions

General

- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
www.un.org/sg
- United Nations Year in Review 2006 [online DVD]
www.un.org/av/unfamily/yir2006.html
- United Nations conferences and observances [new database]
www.un.org/Depts/dhl/un_conf.htm
- The Partnership between the UN and the EU
www.unric.org
- United Nations member states [new website]
www.un.org/members

Peace and Security

- Peace Operations Year in Review 2006
www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/pub/year_review06
- Secretary-General's proposals on peacekeeping and disarmament department reform
www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/61/749
- United Nations Peacekeeping Gender Statistics
www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/contributors/gend.html
- Peacekeeping Best Practices Section [new version of website]
www.un.org/Depts/dpko/lessons
- United Nations Counter-Terrorism Online Handbook
www.un.org/terrorism/cthandbook
- United Nations Police Magazine
www.un.org/Depts/dpko/UNPolice_mag.pdf
- Developing a Mechanism to Prevent Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons [UNIDIR report]
www.unidir.ch/html/en/books-reports.php
- Security Council Sanctions Committees [new website]
www.un.org/sc/committees

Sustainable Development and the MDGs

- United Nations Development Group [new website]
www.undg.org
- Ask UNEP [new interactive feature]
www.unep.org/experts

- Global Environment Outlook Year Book 2007 [UNEP report]
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- State of the World's Forests 2007 [FAO report]
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<http://portal.unesco.org/education/en>
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Human Rights and Humanitarian Action

- 'Much Done, More to Do: Indian Ocean tsunami recovery, two years on' [UNICEF report]
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- African Passages [UNESCO interactive resource on transatlantic slave trade]
www.cofc.edu/unescoafricanpassages
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- Report of the High-Level Mission on the human rights situation in Darfur [advance unedited version]
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www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=322
- The United Nations Democracy Fund
www.un.org/democracyfund



Ambition with a Conscience

Young professionals for peace, justice & sustainable development

What a year!

On behalf of the YPN Steering Committee, **Tim Jarman** takes stock of YPN's promising start and looks forward to the future

On 19 January 2007, the UNA-UK Young Professionals Network turned one! With over 900 members and a string of successful events and initiatives under its collective belt, the Network has much to be proud of! To ensure that this record of achievement is maintained and strengthened, the YPN Steering Committee is undertaking a review in order to identify any useful adjustments which might be made. This process is ongoing and the Steering Committee will keep you posted over the coming months on plans for the future of YPN.

Climate change seminar

Since the last update YPN has been busy with its hugely popular seminar series on 'Business & the MDGs'. The fourth seminar, 'Engaging the private sector in the struggle against climate change', will take place on 22 May, from 7pm to 8.30pm in Portcullis House, Westminster. Sign up online at www.una.org.uk/ypn, and look out for a full write-up on the seminar series in the next issue of *New World*.

Business and human rights

On 19 February, YPN members formed the bulk of the audience at a special event hosted by

our parent organisation UNA-UK in partnership with Clifford Chance. Professor John G. Ruggie, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Business and Human Rights gave a major public presentation ahead of his report to the UN Human Rights Council. Illuminating responses were then given by Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, and Richard Lambert, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry. For more information and to view photos, see page 10 or visit www.una.org.uk

New ways to network

We have also launched a new e-newsletter with a strong focus on careers at the United Nations. If you are already a YPN member you will receive it automatically. Otherwise, it is posted online at www.una.org.uk/ypn

Another innovation has been the launch of a YPN group on Facebook, the social networking site. If you are a user and wish to join, simply go to 'My Groups' and search for 'Young Professionals Network'. A UNA-UK group has also been started.

YPN and UNHCR

On 20 June 2006, YPN partnered with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in London to celebrate World Refugee Day. We are delighted that, this year, we will again be collaborating with UNHCR to mark this day, which commemorates the plight and courage of refugees around the world. Bemma Donkoh, the UN High Commissioner for Refugee's Representative to the UK, will be the keynote speaker, and refugees are also being invited to share their experiences. Further details of this event will be released shortly, so keep checking your inboxes and the YPN website!

Interim update on the Global Young Professionals

As reported in the January-March 2007 issue of *New World*, YPN is a driving force behind and a founding member of the fledgling Global Young Professionals (GYP) programme.

UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network

and UNA-USA's Young Professionals for International Cooperation are currently the only UNA young professionals programmes in operation. But parallel programmes are set to launch in Jamaica and the Netherlands, with growing

numbers of other UN Associations planning to initiate their own networks. GYP will work to support these efforts and help connect young professionals around the world.

A link to the new GYP site – soon to be launched – will appear on www.una.org.uk/ypn shortly!



World Refugee Day: 20 June 2007

Help them learn. Help them play.

World Refugee Day 2007 will focus on UNHCR's global campaign for refugee children: ninemillion.org.

ninemillion.org is a UN Refugee Agency-led

campaign to raise awareness and funds for education and sports programmes for young refugees. Nine million children are refugees right now, many of whom are forced to spend their

youth away from home with little hope of returning. Education, play and sport in refugee camps engage children in positive activities that give them hope and provide vital life tools, which can be used to rebuild lives and regain a sense of normalcy and structure in their daily lives.

To find out more visit www.ninemillion.org



Rasul Suleymanov, age 17

I came to Baku from Grozny in 2001. I miss home. I had many friends there. I don't have any heroes. I don't want one. I dream of going to the world cup. My favourite team is Manchester United. My favourite player is Van Nistelrooy. Playing football makes me happy.



John Aluma, age 13

I have lived here since 2000. My home is Korlive and the Quera tribe. I live with my father and stepmother, but my mother still lives in Sudan. My favourite football team is Manchester United. When I play football, I can be strong.



Mu Dah Hse, age 15

I moved here in 1997 from Htee Hta Village in Myanmar. My family is not planning to resettle but I would like to. God is my hero. I want to become a doctor or a nurse one day, and travel the world. My favourite football player is Arjen Robben of Chelsea.



Kaw Hser, age 8

I was born in Myanmar but my family moved here when I was a baby. My family is planning to move to the United States. I want to become a teacher. I like to play football because it makes me happy.



Afsana Ismailova, age 11

I was born in Sumgayit. My heroes are all of the good people in the world, and those who help others, like my mother. I want to be a professional volleyball player. When I play, I can forget my problems. I can feel happy.



James Tual, age 15

My father died of cholera. I came here in 2005 from Bentu, where my mother and sister still live. My hero is my uncle who cares for me. Playing football is good because I get to play with a lot of people and it keeps me healthy.



Onwards and Upwards!



Greetings to all UNYSA members – I hope you are well. As ever, UNYSA branches have been brimming with activity over the last few months. Read about the ever-industrious Marco Moraes and LSE UNYSA below. Natalie Wease has returned from representing you at the UN, and she has written about her time in New York. Since Christmas, I have visited the LSE, Leicester and Leeds UNYSAs, and have seen those branches' first-rate endeavours.

UNYSA is supporting the Drop the Debt campaign, calling for a cancellation of unfair poor country debts – have a look at the UNYSA website for more details. There you will also find information about our support for the work of Sudan Divestment UK, aiming to induce the Sudanese government into changing its actions in Darfur through financial pressure.

UNYSA ran a stall at the NUS Conference in Blackpool, where there were 1,500 delegates and visitors. Keep a look out for our new Model UN materials, which will be appearing on the website soon. If you are leaving university in the summer, please make sure that you have handed over your UNYSA work to a new committee well before the end of the academic year. We hope that you will continue your interest in the UN – why not join the Young Professionals Network after you have graduated?

Mark Rusling

UNA-UK Campaigns & Education Officer

Dag Hammarskjöld said that everything would be all right when people “**stop thinking of the United Nations as a weird Picasso abstraction, and see it as a drawing they made themselves**”. The work of **UNYSA** is helping to make the drawing a little clearer.



Three New UNYSAs Show Us How It's Done!

LSE UNYSA

Marco Moraes is LSE UNYSA's Events Officer

LSE UNYSA was born out of the spirit of multi-lateralism of a few LSE students in 2006. We act in two main spheres: promoting public events and participating in, and organising, Model UNs. Through public lectures, debates and film nights, we aim to raise awareness of the UN among the LSE community. We want to be a forum for discussion about the UN and how to improve its work.

Our speakers come from different backgrounds, including the UN, media and NGOs, and our debate topics range from human rights to

national politics to debt relief. In November 2006, we held a fantastic talk about peace mediation by Harriet Martin, a journalist, author and former UN official. We are currently planning a series of film nights, as well as talks by representatives from Peace Brigades International and the Jubilee Debt Campaign.

We are very active in promoting the involvement of LSE students in national and international Model UNs, including those held at Oxford and Harvard Universities and the London International Model UN. In February 2007 we organised the first ever LSE Model UN event. This was a very challenging experience, and one of our proudest moments.

LSE's student body is amazingly diverse and we draw on people from very different backgrounds and nationalities. We have nearly 600 members and our committee – of only 12 people – encompasses 10 nationalities! This diversity is reflected in the quality of our debates and public outreach.

In this spirit, if you are ever free to participate in a discussion, attend a lecture or just have a slice of pizza while watching a good movie related to international relations, feel more than welcome to join us! We hope to see you soon!

Marco can be reached on m.f.moraes@lse.ac.uk

EdUNYSA

Simon Walters is President of Edinburgh University UNYSA

Edinburgh UNYSA was formed last September, and with 87 members already, we have got off to a great start. So far the branch has been meeting on a weekly basis. We have had the chance to listen to and question speakers on a variety of issues, equipping ourselves to raise awareness among others about the UN's role in the world. Speakers have included a representative of Waverley Care, which looks after people living with HIV/AIDS

in Scotland, and we recently held a talk on the illicit sale of weaponry.

On 29 January, Lord Hannay, a former UK ambassador to the UN and the current chair of our parent organisation UNA-UK, came to speak to our branch. Over 130 people attended his talk, which was entitled 'The UN: Prospects for a New Year and a New Secretary-General'. Lord Hannay's excellent speech generated a great deal of enthusiasm and this is something we hope to build on in the upcoming year. On behalf of Edinburgh UNYSA, I would like again to express

our thanks to Lord Hannay for having participated in this event. We are looking forward to what will hopefully be another very successful year for Edinburgh UNYSA!

Simon can be reached on president.edunysa@yahoo.co.uk

Prior to his speech to Edinburgh UNYSA, Lord Hannay was interviewed by Leah Magoye, EdUNYSA Vice-President. The interview was published in Edinburgh University's newspaper, The Student. To read it, visit www.una.org.uk/youth

Leicester UNYSA

Chris Levick is President of Leicester UNYSA

Established in the summer of 2006, the UNYSA society at Leicester University has over the course of its outstanding debut year organised activities for its members, reached out to local members of UNA-UK, and sent delegates to the London International

MUN. The society's impressive achievements were recognised in March when it was awarded 'Best Newcomer Student Group' by the Leicester University Students' Union.

Reflecting on Leicester UNYSA's superb first year, Chris Levick, the society's president said, "We hope to build upon this success with another packed programme for the year ahead."

To contact Chris e-mail chris.levick@london.com





Natalie Wease: Young, Gifted and Back

In the January-March 2007 issue of *Newer World*, Glasgow UNA's **Natalie Wease**, the UK's youth delegate to the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD), wrote about her preparations for the Commission's annual session in New York, which took place this year from 7 to 16 February. Natalie is now back in the UK and, below, she reports on what went on at CSocD.

Youth issues were a top priority for the Commission for Social Development's 2007 session. The focus was on 'promoting full employment and decent work for all'. Working with the UK's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, I took part in a wide range of debates.

I represented the views of British young people during the drafting of a supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). This will make the programme much more comprehensive by adding five new priority areas – globalisation, information and communication technologies, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict and intergenerational relations.

Building on WPAY, the Commission passed a resolution on youth in the global economy, and I was involved in the debates surrounding this. I also took part in a panel discussion on the impact of youth unemployment. We addressed the challenges affecting young people's participation in the economy, as well as opportunities for young people in the context of social development.

In New York, I met with youth delegates from other countries, including Portugal, the Netherlands, Sweden and Tanzania, as well as with youth representatives from many NGOs. It was a great opportunity to discuss the issues affecting young people worldwide and to share ideas. The youth delegates were fully included in drafting the texts on youth issues. We were asked to formulate responses which were considered in negotiations, and some of



Photo © UN/DPI

our proposals were incorporated into the final versions.

I also attended the launch of the World Youth Report 2007, which highlights the importance of youth participation in civil society. I made a statement on behalf of the UK, welcoming the report's findings. I talked about the importance of effective youth participation and representation, drawing on the consulta-

tion that I had carried out in the UK before attending the Commission.

At the end of the session, the various texts were voted on and approved. It felt like a great achievement to know that the opinions of British young people had been taken into consideration and reflected in the final documents.

To find out more details about the Commission, go to www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd

I will be speaking to UNA-UK and UNYSA branches about my experiences in New York. If you would like me to speak to your branch, please contact UNA-UK Campaigns & Education Officer, Mark Rusling, on 020 7766 3459 or rusling@una.org.uk





LIMUN: the next generation of diplomats

Joyce Adams is a recent graduate of LSE's MSc programme in human rights. She is currently serving as an intern at UNA-UK, assisting Mark Rusling with the development of UNA-UK's Model UN and educational resources. Joyce played a key role at this year's London International Model UN, acting as head of outreach on the organising committee and as director of the Human Rights Council. Below, she provides a brief report on LIMUN 2007.



The North Korean delegate studies *New World* during a committee session.

Students stay in character while participating in one of the General Assembly committees.



The eighth annual London International Model United Nations Conference (LIMUN) was held on 16-18 February and was attended by more than 500 delegates from around the world. Delegations were sent by schools and universities from 17 countries, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the Czech Republic. Most delegates were studying for A-Levels, the International Baccalaureate, or undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, but this year's conference also included a small group of Year 9 students from Alperton Community School in north-west London.

UNA-UK provided some much-appreciated support to LIMUN this year. Funding from UNA-UK made it possible for 20 international students from Pestalozzi International Village to attend the conference. Pestalozzi students are selected for their academic aptitude and are from low-income families in some of the poorest and least stable countries in the world. Every delegate also received a copy of *New World* in their delegate packs – some even quoted from the magazine in session. Opening ceremonies were held at historic Central Hall Westminster, host to the first General Assembly in 1946 and to Kofi



LIMUN keynote speaker, Sir Kieran Prendergast with LIMUN Secretary-General Jehan Karim.

Tomorrow's diplomats focus on mastering parliamentary procedure in a workshop.



Annan's address to UNA-UK in 2006. Sir Kieran Prendergast, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, was the keynote speaker. The rest of the weekend was spent at Imperial College London where students sat on nine different committees, councils, and courts. There were three new additions this year: the International Criminal Court (which heard the case against Lord's Resistance Army Commander-in-Chief Joseph Kony), a Crisis Committee, and the Human Rights Council.

LIMUN is an independent charity and a UNA-UK affiliate run by students and graduates from the University of London system.

Did you know? Model UN actually predates the UN, as Model League of Nations conferences took place in the United States as early as the 1920s.



" It is time now to bring this matter back to the UN Security Council to send a clear signal to the government in Khartoum that further prevarication will not be tolerated "

Lord Hannay, Chair of UNA-UK, in a letter to the Foreign Secretary

29 April 2007: Day for Darfur

www.una.org.uk/protectdarfur