



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

UNA-USA Newsletter - Nashville Chapter

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

Spring 2003

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Nashville Chapter

**58th Anniversary Membership
Dinner and Plenary**

March 27, 2003

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**“The Current Relationship Between the
United States and the United Nations”**

Featuring

**Ambassador David J. Scheffer,
*Senior Vice-President of UNA-USA***

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

Reservation Required

Call the UNA-USA office at (615) 321-1200
by Monday, March 24, 2003
(Vegetarian plates available)

Cost: \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students
(Scholarships available)

David J. Scheffer - Prior to joining UNA-USA, Mr. Scheffer was a Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace. During the second term of the Clinton Administration, he was Ambassador at Large for War Crimes, Issues, and Chief U.S. negotiator in United Nations talks to establish the Permanent International Criminal Court. During the first term of the Clinton Administration he was Senior Adviser and Counsel to Dr. Madeleine Albright, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Scheffer is a graduate of Harvard College and the law programs at Oxford and Georgetown universities. From 1979 to 1986 he was an associate attorney with the international law firm of Couduet Brothers, working in the firm's Singapore and New York offices. He has held teaching positions at Georgetown University Law Center, Duke University School of Law, and Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

In 1999 he received the Max Kampelman award from the American Bar Association.

President's Corner

Welcome to this issue of our newsletter. With all that is going on in our world, the importance of the United Nations and the good work that it is doing on behalf of all of us has never been greater. Thank you for taking a few moments to read about some of the things going on in our world as they relate to the work of the UN and the United Nations Association of the USA. I hope that you find it interesting and informative.

Hope to see everyone at the 58th Anniversary Dinner on March 27!



Tim Stewart

Excerpt from Tribunal in Africa May Serve As Model for Trial of Hussein

By JESS BRAVIN, Wall Street Journal February 12, 2003

"There is a downside, and that's the security risk," says the court's president, Geoffrey Robertson, an Australian appointed by the Sierra Leone government. "I don't want to end up presiding over a court that's held on a British battleship off Freetown." ...

Nevertheless, Mr. Robertson says the Sierra Leone model would work well in Iraq and that he has discussed the matter with U.S. diplomats. "In a postwar Baghdad or a Baghdad that had regime change from the inside, it would be an important first step to allow Iraq to develop a system of justice," he says.

Not all are convinced. "Sierra Leone is not Iraq," says **David Scheffer**, the Clinton administration's ambassador at large for war-crimes issues. "There's a real benefit to getting the top leadership out of Iraq and not have them percolating in Iraqi detention centers staffed by Americans," says Mr. Scheffer, who helped design the Sierra Leone court and has compiled dossiers on alleged war crimes by the Baghdad regime. "It could be so disruptive of building Iraqi democracy to have this hard-line element still kicking around in Iraq and generating dissension."

United Nations Officials Plan for Humanitarian Relief Effort in Iraq

From <http://www.unausa.org/policy/newsactionalerts/info/dc021403a.asp>

February 14, 2003

While the members of the Security Council consider possible military action against Iraq, United Nations Secretariat officials have begun to plan for the potential humanitarian relief effort that would be required following a conflict. In a closed-door briefing before the Security Council on 13 February, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette-chair of the Secretariat's Steering Group on Iraq-told governments that financial shortfalls were hampering the organization's efforts to implement a prudent prepositioning of supplies in the event war breaks out. In December 2002, the U.N. appealed to members states to provide \$37.4 million in order to ensure a minimum level of preparedness; to date, some \$30 million has been pledged of which the United States has provided about one-half of the total. In order to launch what is described as a "medium-case scenario" for a two to three month period in which up to 10 million people might require food and other assistance during and immediately after a conflict, Frechette has revised the U.N.'s estimate to \$120 million.

The U.N.'s planning for humanitarian assistance to Iraq assumes that a conflict would severely disrupt critical infrastructure and the Iraqi Government's ability to deliver basic services as well as relief to its people. The situation is complicated by the fact that 86 percent of the population currently relies on food rations provided through the Oil for Food program and 5 million Iraqis lack access to safe water and sanitation. At present, the World Food Program (WFP) has put in place food stocks for 250,000 individuals for 10 weeks against an original target of providing enough for 900,000 people by this time. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has stocked shelter materials for 118,000 individuals against an initial target of providing such supplies for 600,000 by this time. UNHCR is not expected to be able to provide supplies for more than 350,000 before the end of March.



for Cultural Diversity

Language not only communicates, it defines culture, nature, history, humanity and ancestry.

Preserving endangered languages is a vital part of securing the culture and heritage of our rich human landscape. Language keeps traditions alive, it inspires knowledge and respect about our past and the planet on which we live, and it links communities across borders and beyond time.

Now, a unique partnership between Discovery Communications Inc., the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN Works Program celebrates languages and cultural diversity. Through television programming and website features, you can learn about endangered languages from the few people who still speak them.

Just like endangered animal species, languages are rapidly dying out and need our commitment and interest to keep them alive. Once, there were between 7,000 and 8,000 distinct languages. Now, very few people speak most of the 6,000 known languages around the world. Half of today's languages have fewer than 10,000 speakers and a quarter have fewer than 1,000. Linguists face a race against time to document many of the remaining ones.

Beginning on International Mother Language Day on 21 February, the Discovery Channel will broadcast short television programs that introduce us to people speaking endangered languages in Scotland, Sweden, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Argentina and India.

On this site, you can meet the people who speak these languages and find out more about their unique cultures.



DON'T FORGET AFGHANISTAN, UN REFUGEE CHIEF WARNS

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Ruud Lubbers warned the international community not to neglect the rebuilding of Afghanistan as the world's focus switches to a potential conflict in Iraq, terming Afghan stability a vital security issue.

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, Lubbers appealed for continued aid as UNHCR begins a three-year program of repatriation from Pakistan. He said he would be writing to donor governments after his tour to ask them to speed up the delivery of pledges.

Last year, UNHCR assisted nearly 1.6 million Afghans to return home from Pakistan and another 262,000 from Iran. The planning figures for this year involve 600,000 returns from both of the neighbouring countries.

UNHCR has so far received only about \$25 million of the \$195 million in funds requested to support its Afghan regional programme in 2003.

About the United Nations / History

The name "United Nations", coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was first used in the "Declaration by United Nations" of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers.

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States in August-October 1944. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. **United Nations Day** is celebrated on 24 October each year.

Brown Bag Luncheon Series

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

March 25, 2003

***"Topic to be announced"* - Dr. Andrew Hughes Hallet, Prof. of Economics, University of Strathclyde, Scotland**

April 17, 2003

***The UN and Germany* - Prof. Matthias Schulz, Prof. of History, Vanderbilt University**

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

We Need Your Help!

We are asking our members and friends to consider a contribution to our chapter for this year. We have already received \$595 on our way to a goal of \$1000.

Volunteers do all our work, but we have expenses of an office (very modest rent), and such things as telephone, postage, newsletters, and annual meeting costs. Our sources of income are a portion of each member's dues, and annual contributions from our members and friends.

If you can help, please send your contribution directly to the UNA, P.O. Box 121745, Nashville, TN 37212. Do not send a gift for our Nashville Chapter with your dues to New York. Thanks to everyone who is supporting us in this way.

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The United Nations Association is conducting a national membership campaign, asking people to join, or rejoin, our organization. Some of our chapter members have received such letters, even though they are currently members in good standing. If you receive a letter from the New York office about your membership, please check your membership card, which has the month and year of expiration. Also feel free to call our membership chair, Dot Anderson, 269-4401, if you have any question about your status. She has a current listing for every member of the Nashville chapter. On the other hand, if you know that your membership has expired, let that letter inspire you to renew your membership.

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