



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

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Nashville Chapter**

59th Annual Dinner and Plenary Meeting

Featured Speaker: Mr. George Saddler
(Chair of the New York, Ralph Bunche Centenary Planning
Committee and Chairman of the
Federation of Associations of
Former International Civil Servants)

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RALPH BUNCHE

Belmont United Methodist Church
(Corner of Acklen Avenue and 21st Ave. South,
Hillsboro Village)

Thursday April 29, 2004

Reception 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Program 7:00 p.m.

(no charge for program only)

Price: \$16

Student Price: \$12

(scholarships available)

RSVP by April 26 to the UNA Office, 615-321-1200.

(Vegetarian meals available upon request when making a reservation)

Ralph Johnson Bunche (1903-1971), an African American scholar, educator, Africanist, and diplomat, achieved national and international prominence in 1949 after negotiating armistice agreements between Israel and 4 Arab states, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. A political scientist, professor and diplomat, Bunche advocated the peaceful resolution of conflict and championed the cause of justice and equality for all people regardless of race or economic status and played a major role in decolonizing much of the colonial world. Bunche was appointed Undersecretary-General for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations, the highest post ever held by an American in the world organization.

*Cosponsored by the Department of History, Geography and Political
Science, Tennessee State University*

President's Corner

Welcome to this issue of our newsletter. With each passing day the importance of the United Nations and the good work that it is doing on behalf of the entire world becomes more and more apparent. Thank you for taking a few moments to read about the work of the UN and the United Nations Association. I hope that you find it interesting and informative.

Hope to see everyone at the 59th Anniversary Dinner on April 29th. We'll be celebrating the Life and Legacy of Ralph Bunche (see related article).



Tim Stewart

Ralph Bunche Centenary Celebration

A year-long 100th anniversary program will celebrate, reevaluate, and build upon our inheritance from a great American and a great international civil servant, Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche. The centenary will run from August 2003 through August 2004. It is planned by the Ralph Bunche Centenary Commemoration Committee (RBCCC) and coordinated by the Internal Management Group (IMG) and its Secretariat located at The Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies (RBIIS). For additional information please see the Centenary Website at <http://www.ralphbunchecentenary.org/>.



Ralph Johnson Bunche, August 7, 1903 – December 9, 1971

From <http://www.ralphbunchecentenary.org/>

Ralph Bunche, scholar, educator, civil rights advocate and world statesman was born in Detroit, Michigan, the son of Fred Bunch, a barber, and Olive Agnes Johnson. The spelling of his last name was changed to Bunche in 1917.

Bunche achieved international renown as the first person of color to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The award was made in recognition of his successful mediation in 1948-49 of the first war between Israel and its neighboring Arab states, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The armistice represented the United Nations' first tangible success in containing a war, and it was recognized that achieving it was in no small way due to the personal efforts of Ralph Bunche. In receiving the Nobel Prize, he was chosen over Winston Churchill and George C. Marshall.

His distinguished career encompassed pioneering work in the cause of civil rights and racial equality in the United States; in the development of American governmental and public understanding of Africa; in the establishment of the United Nations, and the evolution of its innovative programs for decolonization, international mediation, and the containment of armed conflict through international peace-keeping operations. Broadly speaking, Ralph Bunche's success derived from the complex interrelations of his subtle mind, intellectual brilliance, rigorous scholarship, acute sensitivity to human relations, determination and sheer hard work.

Time Line

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|---|--|
| 1903 – Born in Detroit, MI | 1945 – Served as advisor to U.S. delegation to San Francisco conference where UN Charter was drafted |
| 1922 – Graduated Valedictorian from high school | 1946 – Member of First U.S. delegation to UN |
| 1927 – Graduated Valedictorian from UCLA | 1950 – Received Nobel Peace Prize for work in Middle East |
| 1928 – Completed MA in political science at Harvard | 1957 – Under Sec. General in charge of UN peacekeeping |
| 1928 – 1935 – Taught at Howard University | 1963 – Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom |
| 1934 – Completed Ph.D. at Harvard,
won prize for best dissertation | 1971 – Retired from UN, Died, December 9 |

At One Year Anniversary of the Iraq War, Congress Offers Differing Views on American Foreign Policy

(from <http://www.unausa.org>)

March 24, 2004 - One year after the United States went to war in Iraq (March 19, 2003), Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-IL) introduced H. Res. 557 on March 11, 2004, with 11 cosponsors. The resolution “affirms that the United States and the world have been made safer with the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power in Iraq; commends the Iraqi people for their courage in the face of unspeakable oppression and brutality inflicted on them by Saddam Hussein’s regime; commends the Iraqi people on the adoption of Iraq’s interim constitution; and commends the members of the United States Armed Forces and Coalition forces for liberating Iraq and expresses its gratitude for their valiant service.” The House of Representatives passed the resolution on March 17, 2004, with 327 in support, 93 opposed, and 7 voting present.

The debate over the resolution was divided largely on partisan lines, with many Democrats voting for the resolution but voicing displeasure with the process by which it was introduced and an alleged absence of bipartisan consultation. Others voiced criticism regarding the lack of resources available to American troops. Still others were concerned about what they described as the unilateral nature of the war.

Members Cite a Need to Work More Closely with the United Nations

During discussion related to H. Res. 557, Rep. Ike Skelton, (D-MO) inserted into the *Congressional Record* two letters that he had written to President George W. Bush during the months leading up to the war. One letter, dated March 18, 2003, outlined possible negative scenarios if a war were to occur, noting that “The United Nations can’t agree on how involved to get given the divisions among the Security Council about the need for conflict. The lack of UN involvement in the administration makes the European Union and others less likely to give. This situation delays reconstruction and puts more of the cost on the United States and a smaller number of partners.”

Rep. James A. Leach (R-IA) stressed the need to work with the United Nations for the purpose of legitimizing U.S. foreign policy. In his remarks, included in the *Congressional Record*, Leach noted, “Legitimacy is critical for all countries. There may be times and circumstances in which the U.S. national interest requires action without a U.N. sanction. But the U.N. is ignored at great risk, especially when the international community is at odds with a nation state’s policies. The U.N.’s help, for instance, could be significant at this point in facilitating elections and helping legitimize new governing structures.” He continued, “Outside pressure is less convincing when it appears to be presented by a singular authority—i.e., the United States. One of the reasons so many countries prefer a strong U.N. role is that such a role not only provides greater legitimization of intervention but greater legitimization of processes leading to a new government. U.S. slighting of the U.N. undercuts governmental legitimizing efforts and causes the entirety of the Moslem world to become more antagonistic to our country.”

Rep. Diane E. Watson (D-CA) expressed disappointment that the United Nations was not more involved. She observed, “When the President announced on May 1 of last year that major combat operations in Iraq had ceased, I expected a quick draw-down of American troops and a significant increase of United Nations peacekeepers.”

A “SMART” Resolution is Proposed

In a related development, Rep. Lynn C. Woolsey, (D-CA) introduced H. Con. Res. 392 on March 18, 2004, “Calling for the adoption of a Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism (“SMART”) Security Platform for the 21st Century.” The measure calls for “strengthening international institutions” and “working with the United Nations” in the fight against terrorism. The resolution also reaffirms U.S. commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The SMART resolution was referred to the House Committee on International Relations where it awaits further action.

During the debate over H. Res. 557, Woolsey stated, “Tomorrow I will introduce a resolution called Smart Security. Smart Security is about prevention, not preemption. It sees war as a last resort to be considered only after every diplomatic solution has been exhausted. It calls for more robust multilateral institutions to prevent terrorism, manages international conflicts and promotes global stability, since smart security is tough, pragmatic, and patriotic. It is smart and it would keep America safe and it supports our troops.” For further information, see Woolsey’s website at <http://woolsey.house.gov>.

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:

April 15, 2004

Topic, TBA - Prof. Tom Schwartz, Prof. of History, Vanderbilt University

May 20, 2004

TBA

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

Celebration of Cultures

July 9th and 10th, Scarritt-Bennett Center

Be sure to look for the UNA booth at this year's Celebration of Cultures festival at Scarritt-Bennett Center. Please call our office, 615-321-1200, if you're interested in volunteering!

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Your Support is Appreciated!

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

Please be sure and renew your membership when it comes due, or consider joining the UNA if you haven't already. You can join at our website, <http://www.una-nashville.org>, or contact our office at 615-321-1200 and we'll send you a brochure. Our main sources of income are a portion of each member's dues, and annual contributions from our members and friends.

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

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