



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

UNA-USA Newsletter - Nashville Chapter

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

Summer 2003

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Nations Association – USA
Nashville Chapter**

**Special Summer
Luncheon and Plenary**

July 26, 2003

11:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**“The United Nations: Our Most Viable Option
for World Peace”**

Featuring

Bishop Melvin Talbert,

*Ecumenical Officer, United Methodist Church Council of Bishops
Past President, National Council of Churches*

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

Reservation Required

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

by Tuesday, July 22, 2003

(Vegetarian plates available)

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

(Scholarships available)

Bishop Melvin G. Talbert - Bishop Talbert is a past president of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (1996-99), a leader in the World Council of Churches, and Bishop in the United Methodist Church. He recently retired after years of service as a pastor and District Superintendent. In 1973 he was elected General Secretary for the General Board of Discipleship and served in that capacity until his election to the office of Bishop. During his tenure as Bishop he served as Secretary for the Council of Bishops and was the Chief Ecumenical Officer for eight years.

Bishop Talbert has been recognized for his leadership in the United Methodist Church and in ecumenical circles worldwide. He has participated on ecumenical delegations to South Africa, China, North Korea, Iraq (twice) and Northern Ireland with President Clinton in 1995. An outspoken critic of the recent U.S. war with Iraq, Bishop Talbert is also involved in local issues of peace and social and economic justice and human rights. He has championed civil rights causes throughout his life.

Excerpt from Robert Muller: The World's People Wage Peace

from

<http://www.peacepilgrim.org/FoPP/newsletter/nl39.htm#dialog>

Introduction by Lynne Twist, San Francisco, CA

Dr. Robert Muller, former assistant secretary general of the United Nations, now Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Peace in Costa Rica, was one of the people who witnessed the founding of the U.N. and has worked in support of, or inside the U.N. ever since. Recently he was in San Francisco to be honored for his service to the world through the U.N. and through his writings and teachings for peace. At age eighty, Dr. Muller surprised, even stunned, many in the audience that day with his most positive assessment of where the world stands now regarding war and peace.

I'm so honored to be here. I'm so honored to be alive at such a miraculous time in history. I'm so moved by what's going on in our world today. Never before in the history of the world has there been a global, visible, public, viable, open dialogue and conversation about the very legitimacy of war.

The whole world is in now having this critical and historic dialogue - listening to all kinds of points of view and positions about going to war or not going to war. In a huge global and public conversation the world is asking. "Is war legitimate? Is it illegitimate? Is there enough evidence to warrant an attack? Is there not enough evidence to warrant an attack? What will be the consequences? the costs? What will happen after a war? How will this set off other conflicts? What might be peaceful alternatives? What kind of negotiations are we not thinking of? What are the real intentions for declaring war?"

At this moment in history the United Nations is at the center of the stage. It is the place where these conversations are happening, and it has become in these last months and weeks, the most powerful governing body on earth, the most powerful container for the world's effort to wage peace rather than war.

It is difficult, hard work, it is constant and we must not let up. It is working and it is an historic milestone of immense proportions. It has never happened before - never in human history - and it is happening now - every day,

President's Corner

Welcome to this issue of our newsletter. The UN continues to play a prominent role in the Middle East, Iraq and throughout the world.

Thank you for taking a few moments to read about some of the things related to the work of the UN and the United Nations Association. I hope that you find it interesting and informative.

We are especially excited to bring you a special summer luncheon program, The United Nations – Our Most Viable Option for World Peace featuring Bishop Melvin Talbert on July 26th and to again participate in Celebration of Cultures at Scarritt-Bennett Center, July 11th and 12th. Hope to see everyone at one or both events!



Tim Stewart

every hour - waging peace through a global conversation.

It is tense, it is tough, it is challenging, and we are in the most significant and potent global conversation and public dialogue in the history of the world. It is a stunning new era of Global listening, speaking and responsibility.

The largest peace demonstrations in the history of the world are taking place. This is a miracle. This is what waging peace look like. No matter what happens, history will record that this is a new era, and that the 21st century has been initiated with the world in a global dialogue looking deeply, profoundly and responsibly as a global community at the legitimacy of the actions of a nation that is desperate to go to war. The leaders of that nation are being engaged in further dialogue, forcing them to rethink, and allowing all nations to participate in the serious and horrified decision to go to war or not.

Now, there are two superpowers: the United States and the merging, surging voice of the people of the world. All around the world, people are waging peace. It is nothing short of a miracle and it is working.

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

Issues in brief

U.N. Role in Iraq:

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

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

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

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

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

Model United Nations at TSU

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

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

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

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



John Miglietta

Honor for Marjorie Koehler

Long-time UNA member and UNICEF coordinator, Marjorie Koehler, will be honored at the 2003 Sage Awards Luncheon on October 30 at the Maxwell House Hotel. The Sage Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the Council on Aging of Greater Nashville, honors older adults who have made outstanding contributions to the well-being of Nashville's citizens through a lifetime commitment to improving the quality of life in their community.

Working with UNICEF since 1981, Marjorie has coordinated more than 20 youth groups participating in Trick or Treat for UNICEF and helped raise more than \$100,000.

If you would like to be a part of this event honoring Marjorie, please contact Ray Conatser, 781-8471, for information about tickets.

Congratulations Marjorie and Thanks!

We Need Your Help!

We are asking our members and friends to consider a contribution to our chapter for this year. We have received over \$600 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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Nashville Chapter
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