



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 2006

(615) 321-1200



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Special Summer Luncheon and Plenary

August 12, 2006

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

“Nashville as an International City”

Featuring

**The Honorable Bill Purcell,
Mayor of Nashville**

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

Reception - 11:00-11:30 AM

Lunch - 11:30

Program – 12:15

Reservation Required

Please note that the United Nations Association has to pay the caterer based on the number of reservations. Those who make a reservation and do not show up will be asked to make a donation to the chapter to cover the cost.

Call the UNA-USA office at (615) 321-1200
by Wednesday, August 9
(Vegetarian plates available)

Cost: \$16.00 for adults and \$12.00 for students
(Scholarships available)

Mayor Bill Purcell – Bill Purcell is the fifth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, elected first in 1999 and reelected to a second term in 2003 with a record setting 84.8 percent of the vote. As mayor his priorities are good schools in every neighborhood, safe neighborhoods in every part of the city and a quality of life shared by all Nashvillians.

Prior to being elected mayor, Purcell served as director of the Child and Family Policy Center at the Vanderbilt Institute of Public Policy Studies, a nationally recognized center building a bridge between academic research, politics and best practices to benefit children and their families.

President's Corner

I hope that everyone is having a great summer and finding a time to take at least a little break from the routine. While the UNA Board took a month off from meeting this summer, we have been busy planning some wonderful opportunities for our members and our community.

We're very pleased that Mayor Bill Purcell will be joining us for our Summer Luncheon on Saturday, August 12. He will be speaking on "Nashville as an International City", certainly a relevant topic with the many international companies and more than 100 language groups represented in Middle TN.

We also have some articles that hopefully will interest you and perhaps spur you to action. If you haven't done so recently, take time to explore both the UNA-USA website, www.unausa.org, and the Nashville Chapter's website, www.una-nashville.org. While you're visiting our site, take time to join our chapter if you're not already a member.

Have a great rest of the summer, and I hope to see you at the Summer Luncheon August 14!

Best Wishes,

John Miglietta

Don't Give Up on Darfur: Urge Bush to Appoint Special Envoy

(from UNA-USA Advocacy Center)

A major breakthrough was achieved in the campaign to stop the humanitarian disaster in Darfur, Sudan, when a comprehensive peace agreement was signed on May 5th. According to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the peace accord provides "a precious window of opportunity" for ending a conflict responsible for as many as 400,000 deaths and the displacement of 2.5 million people.

Appointment by the President of a senior envoy for Sudan - to focus exclusively on the Darfur crisis - can help advance these critical objectives, while keeping the crisis in the spotlight for American citizens and the US government.

Please take a moment to contact President Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, urging the administration to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a high-level special envoy to lead US Government efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur.

Visit <http://www.unausa.org/action> to see how you can make a difference!

Statement Upon the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the First Session of the UN General Assembly, Jan. 10, 2006

"Today it is exactly 60 years since the first session of the United Nations General Assembly opened in London.

"There have been many changes in the Assembly over the past 60 years. In 1946, there were 51 Member States; now there are 191. In 1946, the agenda centered around the challenges facing the world in the aftermath of World War II. In the 1950s and 1960s, decolonization was a major task

"Throughout the last 60 years, the Assembly has taken landmark decisions on matters in which all humanity has an interest - from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 to the Millennium Development Goals in 2000. And the United Nations has overseen an enormous amount of practical activity to promote development, democracy and human rights; protect the environment; and maintain peace and security.

"Now the Assembly has responsibilities encompassing both old and new threats and challenges in the fields of international security, development and poverty reduction, communicable diseases, human rights, humanitarian assistance, non-proliferation and disarmament and counter-terrorism.

"But some defining characteristics have not changed. The General Assembly remains the world's single universal intergovernmental body. And in September 2005, the largest ever gathering of world leaders reaffirmed the central role of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations.

"The words of Dr. Zuleta Angel of Colombia, the opening speaker on 10 January 1946, are strikingly relevant today. He said:

'The whole world now awaits our decisions, and rightly - yet with understandable anxiety - looks to us now to show Ourselves capable of mastering our problems.'

"In a world of much uncertainty and mistrust, we need a strong United Nations and an effective General Assembly more than ever. We, the Members of the Assembly, must show that we can respond decisively to the major challenges of the twenty-first century. We must meet the test of international cooperation and multilateralism which the world now faces.

Statement by GA President Jan Eliasson on the 60th anniversary of the first meeting of the UN General Assembly, on 10 January, 2006

Selecting the Next UN Secretary-General

A UNA - USA REPORT - May 2006

(*excerpts*)

The upcoming leadership transition of the secretary-general at the end of 2006 is shaping up to be the most important succession in the history of the United Nations. With this in mind, the United Nations Association of the USA held a series of meetings over the past several months aimed at clarifying the appropriate roles of the secretary-general and identify the qualities we should look for in the next secretary-general, shedding light on how to best improve the selection process, and thinking through what should be the priority agenda for the next secretary-general.

Chaired by Thomas R. Pickering, former US ambassador to the UN, and Sir Brian Urquhart, former UN under secretary-general for special political affairs, participants included member state representatives to the UN from every region of the world, former and current UN officials, private sector and nongovernmental organization representatives, scholars and other experts.

Roles and Qualities

- The overriding goal should be to appoint the most qualified man or woman for the job.
- The secretary-general is and should remain a fundamentally diplomatic post.
- The secretary-general should be held accountable for the overall management of the organization, but he/she should be able to entrust day-to-day management responsibilities to the deputy secretary-general and other senior staff.

The Selection Process

- The geographical rotation system should be replaced with a more open, deliberative process that eliminates gender and regional barriers.
- The role of the General Assembly should be expanded and the importance of transparency should be highlighted in the selection process.
- In an effort to open up the process, the Security Council, should appoint a nominating committee composed of highly regarded individuals with integrity and stature and task them with the responsibility of seeking out qualified candidates.

Agenda and Priorities

- Secretary-General candidates should present a "platform" that sets forth their views on addressing priority issues and what they would like to achieve as secretary-general.
- Secretary-General Annan's reform package should be implemented by the member states before the end of this year in order to give his successor a solid basis from which to begin.

To read UNA-USA's full report, visit www.unausa.org/nextsg

Tennessee State Model UN Club Ends Another Year at Nationals

This past semester the Tennessee State International Affairs Society participated for the sixth year in a row in the National Model United Nations Conference, April 11-15 in New York City. This year TSU represented the Solomon Islands. The students participated on several committees:

- General Assembly Plenary
- General Assembly First Committee
- General Assembly Second Committee
- General Assembly Third Committee
- World Trade Organization
- Group of 77
- Conference Committee on Dealing with Disaster Relief

Among the issues they dealt with were: Weapons of Mass Destruction; International Crime; Terrorism, Issues of Development and Debt; as well as Early Warning of Natural Disasters. This conference also saw the beginnings of what hopefully will be more cooperation between TSU and Fisk Universities. Joining the TSU students at this year's conference was Ijeoma Ike from Fisk University.

Representing a small little known country such as the Solomon Islands was a challenge. The students studied the history of the islands as well as the pertinent issues facing the country. Among the issues they researched was global warming. This threatens to have a major impact especially on island nations as the potential for the melting of the icecaps would mean the rising of ocean levels. Another issue was peacekeeping. The Solomon Islands are just emerging from a period of internal conflict and the peacekeeping force, largely sponsored by Australia, has been instrumental in helping the Solomon islanders rebuild their country and bring about a measure of political stability.

The Model UN club is planning another exciting year. The students are looking forward to participating in the Model African Union as part of the National Association of African-American Honors Programs annual meeting in early November. Shortly thereafter TSU will participate in the Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference in Atlanta.

If you are interested in finding out more information about Model UN at TSU please contact the faculty advisor, Dr. John Miglietta, 615 963-5515, jmiglietta@tnstate.edu.



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:

September 21, 2006

Topic, TBA - Dr. Karen Petersen, Assistant Prof. of Political Science, Middle TN State University

October 19, 2006

TBA

November 16, 2006

TBA

December 21, 2006

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.

United Nations Association
Nashville Chapter
P.O. Box 121745
Nashville, TN 37212

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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