

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

--WESTMINSTER--

www.una.westminster.org.uk

Twinned with UNA Connecticut For World Peace, Disarmament, Development and Human Rights

JOINT PRESIDENTS: BARONESS COX OF QUEENSBURY, LORD RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, LORD JUDD OF PORTSEA



Annual Report 2006-2007

I am pleased to submit our annual report together with the branch's financial report for the two years to 31 March 2007. We have been as busy as ever and our finances are secure. Our 2005-2006 report referred to several activities which actually took place during the year 2006-2007 so I shall not report on them in full again. To recap, these were:

2006

21-23 April - UNA Annual Conference, Durham University

26 April - Branch Meeting

Time for common sense in the UN's drugs policy: but will the UN and its member states dare to listen? [see our website: *The UN's drugs dilemma*]

16 May - 4th Ruth Steinkraus-Cohen International Law Lecture

Do Soldiers Really Have to Apply Human Rights Law in Military Operations?

31 May - 3rd Annual Conference to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers

Keeping today's international peace: a job for more than the military

31 May - 3rd Remembrance Ceremony, The Cenotaph, Whitehall

Other events during the year to 31 March, 2007 included;

2006

24 October - *Women, Peace and Security: What progress since UN Security Council Resolution 1325?* Speakers: Joan Ruddock MP, Chair, Associated Parliamentary Group on SCR 1325 and Dr Shatha Beserani, Founder, Iraqi Women for Peace and Democracy Campaign. This meeting was held in association with our Annual General Meeting.

2 December - *Stories from the Field* Our 1st documentary film festival to promote the United Nations Millennium Development Goals was held at the National Film Theatre. In four sessions, we screened the best films produced in the preceding year by the UN, its agencies and independent producers to promote the UN Millennium Development Goals. Audience feedback encouraged us to plan our 2nd film festival to which will be held between 29 November and 8 December 2007. **We are delighted to report that our application to the Awards for All Lottery Fund has been granted in full.**

2007

15 March - 5th Ruth Steinkraus-Cohen International Law Lecture. Professor James Crawford, Whewell Professor of International Law, University of Cambridge spoke to the subject "*Holding International Organisations and their members to account*". The event was held in association with the International Relations Committee of the Bar Council and the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS and was supported by Clifford Chance LLP.

For your information, our events held since 31 March include:

23 May - 4th International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers Conference,
Ensuring success in post-conflict reconstruction; tasks for peacekeepers and those who follow them

23 May - 4th Remembrance Ceremony, The Cenotaph, Whitehall

12 June - *The Ahtisaari proposal for Kosovo: a path to integration or stalemate?*
Alan Phillips, President, Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Council of Europe and Clive Baldwin, Head of International Advocacy, Minority Rights Group International.

4 August - Tea party at Home House for Elizabeth MacKeith to mark her contribution to the work of the Westminster Branch of UNA in the cause of humanity worldwide

18 October - *The Challenges Facing the International Community and the United Nations* HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal

UNA-Connecticut

We retain close links with our twin, the Connecticut chapter of UNA-USA. Its activities can be followed through our website. We distributed 1000 copies of its 2007 United Nations Calendar for Peace to schools in Westminster and to Racial Equality Councils throughout London.

Our Honorary Officers

We are delighted that Baroness Cox of Queensbury, Lord Russell-Johnston and Lord Judd of Portsea continue to serve as our Joint Presidents and that HH Prince Mohsin Ali Khan has accepted our invitation to serve as a Joint Vice-President alongside Juliet Colman, Granville Fletcher, the Rt. Hon. Jeremy Thorpe PC, Ben Whitaker and Elizabeth MacKeith.

Our Website

Now in its 2nd anniversary, it has been praised for its unique 'one-stop guide' to the UN Millennium Development Goals, its reports on major branch activities and its guides to relevant UN initiatives. As well as all this, it links to about 150 other websites and features a UN-FM radio which plays funky World Music. A dove, when activated, flies across the screen, to promote Peace, to Tchaikovsky's music! Try it for yourself.

Our Funds

Our ambitious programme of events is underpinned by the generous legacy of the late Ruth Steinkraus-Cohen but our policy is to seek specific financial support for our flagship events. We plan to introduce new events in 2008 and will seek energetically to secure specific funding for these also.

Our Future

Our programme of events remains unrivalled nationwide but so are the demands of you, our members. We will continue to devise good events and ask for your continued support. I thank the members of the Executive Committee for bringing to reality our various projects and for making them relevant. So, please come to our meetings, bring your friends and encourage them to join the United Nations Association. If they work or live in the area, please get them to join you as a member of the Westminster Branch. We need all the support we can get.

David Wardrop, Chairman
on behalf of your committee

5 November 2007