

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers Remembrance Ceremony

The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London: 1pm, 21 May 2009

Statement: David Wardrop, Chairman, United Nations Association, Westminster Branch

Prayer: Revd. Andrew Jacobson, Chaplain to the Forces (Volunteers)

Wreaths will be laid on the North Face

IN MEMORY: COUNT FOLKE BERNADOTTE, 1st UN mediator
Count Edward Bernadotte, grandson

IN MEMORY: COMMANDANT RENÉ DE LABARRIÈRE, 1st UN fatality
Colonel Marc Demier, Army Attaché, French Embassy

IN MEMORY: UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS FROM 119 NATIONS

Sir Peter Ricketts, KCMG, Head of Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service

Major-General Barney White-Spunner CBE, GOC 3rd (UK) Division

Denis O'Connor CBE QPM, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

Wreaths will be laid on the East, South and West faces

Albania HE Mr Zef Mazi **Andorra** HE Mrs Maria Picart de Francis **Australia** Lt-Colonel Chris Anderson **Argentina** WO Alejandro Lopez **Bahamas** HE Mr Paul Farquharson **Bangladesh** Brig-General Fazlur Rahman **Belarus** HE Mr Aleksandr Mikhevich **Belgium** Mr Serge Dickschen **Bosnia & Herzegovina** Ms Vesela Planinic **Brazil** Mr Tulio Amaral Kafuri **Bulgaria** Mr Oleg Doichinov **Cameroon** Mr Denis Nyuydzewira **Canada** Lt-Colonel Lee Nickerson **China** Senior-Colonel Cui Jianli **Croatia** Ms Maja Erceg **Cyprus** Mr Dimitris Hatziaargyrou **Czech Republic** Lt-Colonel Leos Mauer **Denmark** Captain Niels Sørensen **Domenica** Mrs Janet Charles **Estonia** Lt-Colonel Urmas Muld **Ethiopia** HE Mr Berhanu Kebede **Fiji** HE Pio Bosco Tikoisuva **France** Colonel Marc Demier **Gabon** Mr Medard Nze-Ekome **Germany** Lt-Colonel Carsten Rietsch **Ghana** Brig-General George Adjei **India** Brigadier Anil Mehta **Indonesia** Mr Haris Nugroho, Colonel Agung Risdhianto **Iran** Mr Ali Zohrehvand **Ireland** Mr Ciaran Byrne **Israel** Mrs Talya Lador-Fresher **Italy** Mr Giovanni Brauzzi **Japan** Mr Kiyoto Maeda **Jordan** Colonel Ayman Matouq **Kazakhstan** Colonel Ruslan Zhutabayev **Korea** Mr Yoo Euy-Sang **Kuwait** Mr Bader Al-Munayekh **Lebanon** Mr Francis Marwan **Lesotho** Mrs Maana Mapetja **Maldives** HE Dr Farahanaz Faizal **Malta** Mr Bernard Hamilton **Malaysia** Major Izwan Amran **Moldova** Mrs Ala Beleavshi **Montenegro** HE Mr Dragisa Burzan **Morocco** Mr Mohammed Oualid **Mozambique** Ms Lucia Cherinda **Namibia** Mr Kanaki Tjejamba **Nepal** Mr Jhabindra Aryal **Netherlands** Lt-Colonel Peter Snel **New Zealand** Squ Ldr Lyall Stewart **Nigeria** Brig-Gen HG Aminu **Norway** Lt-Colonel Hans-Jacob Roos **Oman** W-Cdr Ali-Said Al Hajri **Pakistan** Major Khuram Qadri **Poland** Colonel Krzysztof Szymanski **Qatar** Colonel Mohammed Al-Nuaimi **Romania** Mrs Carmen Podgorean **Russian Federation** Colonel Vadim Pivovar **Serbia** Lt-Colonel Branko Milovanovic **Slovenia** Lt-Colonel Tomasz Okrslar **South Africa** Brig-General A Fakir **Spain** Lt-Colonel Alfonso Romero **Sri Lanka** Brig N Dharmaratne **Sweden** Mr Per Enarsson **Thailand** HE Mr Kitti Wasinondh **Tonga** Ms Sione Tupou **Trinidad & Tobago** Ms Gail Guy **Turkey** Gp Captain Durviz **Uganda** Mr Bernard Nangumya **Ukraine** Colonel Sirhiy Strilchuk **United Arab Emirates** Staff-Brigadier Salim Al-Ali **United States of America** Colonel Anita Domingo **Venezuela** Captain Luis Ojeda **Zambia** Brig-General Robertson Mumba

FOR THE WIDOWS OF UN PEACEKEEPERS: Mrs Gill Grigg, War Widows Association

ON BEHALF OF UK SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Mr John Cooke, UN Veterans Assn (UK)

ON BEHALF OF UK CIVILIAN STAFF : Mr David Irwin, HM Revenue and Customs

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION: Mr Tim Kellow, UNA Peace & Security Programme

FOR THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD : Students from the Grey Coat School for Girls and the Westminster City School for Boys

Prayer Dr Sunil Kariyakarawana, Buddhist Chaplain to HM Forces

Closing Statement David Wardrop

Students from the Grey Coat Hospital School for Girls and the Westminster City School for Boys will serve as marshals throughout the ceremony.

A Guide to today's ceremony to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

United Nations peacekeepers: helping to bring failed States back to life

Today, there are more than 92,000 UN peacekeeping troops including 10,298 police from 117 nations serving in 20 UN operations on four continents. They are joined by about 6,000 international civilians and more than 13,000 local civilian staff. Women peacekeepers serve in the military (1%), police (4%), international civilian staff (30%) and nationally recruited civilian staff (28%). The UN is the largest multilateral contributor to post-conflict stabilization worldwide. Only the US deploys more military personnel to the field. In 2005, UN peacekeeping operations involved 161,000 military and police personnel using 864 flights on 200 long-term charter aircraft, moving in all 700,000 passengers to various missions. In that year, the UN deployed 220 medical clinics and 21 military hospitals.

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

A total of 2,588 peacekeepers from 119 nations have lost their lives in service. Of these, 99 were British. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was first observed on 29 May 2003, the date in 1948 when the first UN peacekeeping mission, its Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine. On this day, we pay tribute "to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations, as well as to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace."

The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

The Medal is a posthumous award to members of UN peacekeeping operations who have lost their lives in service under the control and authority of the UN. The 3" x 2", clear glass crystal ellipsoid is grit-blasted with the name and date of death of the recipient, the UN symbol and the inscription "The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal. In Service of Peace" in English and French. Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary-General (1953-1961) died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo.

Count Folke Bernadotte

Count Folke Bernadotte served as head of the Swedish Red Cross during World War II. In its final months, he led a Swedish relief expedition to Germany with his famous "white buses.", saving about 30,000 concentration camp prisoners, bringing them to Sweden. In 1948, he became the UN's first official mediator, in Palestine. He achieved a truce in the first Palestine war and set up the UN refugee relief organization. He proposed a political solution to the Palestine question but on 17 September, 1948, a few days before his plan was to be presented to the UN, he was assassinated in Jerusalem. At a meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1998, his family received the Dag Hammarskjöld medal. Today, the wreath to his memory will be laid by his eldest grandson, Oscar Bernadotte.

Commandant René de Labarrière

The French officer, Commandant René de Labarrière, was the first peacekeeper to lose his life in a United Nations peacekeeping operation. He was serving as a Military Observer in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Palestine when he was killed by a landmine on 6 July 1948. At the same meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1998, his family received his Dag Hammarskjöld medal. Today, the wreath to his memory will be laid by Colonel Marc Demier, Military Attache at the French Embassy.

The Band of the Scots Guards

The Scots Guards were formed in 1642 by King Charles but first records of the band date from 1716. By 1888, the band had grown to 44 musicians. It was the only Foot Guards Band to be deployed on active service during the Gulf War in 1990, serving in hospital duties at 33 General Hospital, Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. The band played at the handover ceremony in Hong Kong in 1997 and toured the USA and Canada in 1998. In 2000, they performed in Australia and New Zealand where they took part in the first ever performance of the Edinburgh Tattoo abroad. Since then, the band has performed in many European countries and in Kenya, South Korea and Australia. It provides musical support today with the kind agreement of Major Douglas Robertson, Director of Music.

The United Nations Association in the UK

UNA-UK (www.una.org.uk) is the UK's leading independent authority on the UN. Independent of the UN system, it can be critical of its decisions and activities if needed and can call for reforms to better equip it to fulfil its fundamental functions; to maintain international peace and security, to promote development and to uphold human rights around the world. Today's International Peacekeepers Day conference and Remembrance ceremony will be the sixth to have been organised by its Westminster Branch. For information, visit www.unawestminster.org.uk