



# n e w s l e t t e r

## of the Maine Chapter of the United Nations Association

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## Note to Readers

A significant number of recipients of this Newsletter (and other UNA-Maine mailings) have, voluntarily or inadvertently, allowed their memberships in UNA-USA to lapse. We urge them to rejoin by sending a check for renewal in the amount of \$40 for annual dues to

UNA-USA Membership Services  
801 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017-4706.

A portion of these dues payments is passed on to our chapter, where it forms an important part of our income. In due course, we shall be purging the mailing list and *we don't want to lose you!*

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### United Nations Day 2005

The sixtieth birthday of the United Nations will be commemorated by UNA Maine on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Portland Museum of Art, beginning at 6:00 P.M. The featured speaker on this special day will be Sir Brian Urquhart, a member of the UN Secretariat since the organization was established, and a former UN Under-Secretary General in charge of UN peace-keeping activities. Sir Brian is also the author of definitive biographies of Dag Hammarskjöld and Ralph Bunche. He will be introduced by his son, Maine resident Thomas Urquhart. A reception will follow.

A summit meeting of world leaders has been convened by Secretary General Kofi Annan to consider his proposals for reforming and restructuring the system and the Secretariat and to promote progress in achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals approved by all states members five years ago. Sir Brian's remarks are expected to take account of whatever summit decisions will have been reached, as he deals with "The Challenges and Opportunities before the United Nations Today". These are momentous issues likely to affect the relevance of the organization for generations to come.

Tickets are \$30 per person. Checks should be sent to United Nations Association of Maine, 11 Columbia Street, Augusta ME 04330, and marked "UN Day". Proceeds will benefit the work of UNA Maine and the Maine Model UN Program.

## **Governor's Proclamation**

It has been a tradition in Maine that the Governor issues a proclamation on the occasion of United Nations Day. For the information of members, here is the proposed text of the proclamation for 2005 ~

### **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, October 24<sup>th</sup> 2005 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, which, since its founding on October 24<sup>th</sup> 1945, has served the populations of the world, seeking to improve standards of living and well-being, to protect and promote basic human rights, and to eliminate terrorism and other forms of conflict; and

WHEREAS, the 191 member states of the United Nations are currently engaged in efforts to strengthen the organization and make it more efficient, and to restructure its principal organs to reflect changes in the world which have occurred since its founding; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Association in Maine has served to inform the citizens of this state of the activities and goals of the organization, through a series of public forums and notably through its annual sponsorship of a Model UN Conference which has provided opportunities of thousands of high school students from Maine and around the region to debate and attempt to resolve political, social and economic issues of the day; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Maine join with all Americans as beneficiaries of the United Nations' efforts to promote international peace;

NOW THEREFORE I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2005 as

### **UNITED NATIONS DAY**

throughout the state of Maine, and urge all citizens to renew their dedication to the promotion of international cooperation and understanding.

## **Law of the Sea**

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was adopted 25 years ago, after 14 years of intensive negotiations among more than 160 member states. The Convention is a tremendously significant milestone in the world's effort to manage the "earth's last unknown territory", but although many of its provisions are applied by the United States, the law has not yet been ratified by the United States. Taking account of the breadth and depth of Maine's interest in maritime matters and resources, the United Nations Association of Maine is planning to make the Law of the Sea the subject of a major program in 2006. Detailed plans will be published in due course.

## **MAICC**

The Chapter continues to take a leading role in the Maine Alliance for the International Criminal Court. A Continuing Legal Education seminar on accountability of corporate officers before the Court and an event focused on indigenous peoples & the Court are in preliminary planning stages.

## **Annual Meeting 2005**

The Chapter's annual meeting will be held at the Holden Frost House in Topsham on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting will feature the report of the President, Wendy Hazard, on chapter activities, election of officers and directors for 2006, and a keynote speech by Bruce Stedman, who will be retiring from the Board at the end of this year.

## **United Nations Day 2005**

Plans are being formulated for expanding our hugely successful Model United Nations program. Information as to the progress of these plans will be available at the annual meeting.

## News Bites from UN Wire

It has been our practice to publish selected news items taken from UN Wire ([www.UNwire@smartbrief.com](mailto:www.UNwire@smartbrief.com)), chosen because they are thought to be of general interest but are not especially well known. Here is the latest installment:

❖ 6/9/05 • Led by US purchases of \$455 billion, the world spent more than \$1 trillion on arms in 2004, the highest level since the height of the Cold War, according to a new report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The figure dwarfs the \$78.6 billion the world spent on aid to the world's most needy countries as "negligible" (*The Independent*, London).

❖ 6/16 • The White House urged House Republicans to abandon proposed legislation that would cut US dues to the United Nations in half unless specific reforms are enacted, saying it would hurt US foreign policy (*The Washington Post*).

❖ 6/28 • The Association of British Insurers is expected to add its voice to a growing global consensus on climate change, urging G-8 countries to take action against the phenomenon the group reports could cost its industry up to \$27 billion in the next seven decades, due to a rise in the number of storms around the globe (*Financial Times*, London).

❖ 7/12 • The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has appointed former South African President and anti-apartheid champion Nelson Mandela as its new goodwill ambassador. Mandela is expected to join a group of other dignitaries in forwarding the mission of UNESCO, whose Director General Matsuura praised Mandela's "outstanding leadership in the fight against apartheid and racial discrimination in his country and worldwide" (*UP International*).

❖ 7/26 • At a time when more than 1 billion people around the world lack access to clean drinking water, the United Nations is spearheading cutting-edge developments in the field of isotope hydrology, a technology that allows scientists to gauge the age, origins, amount and flow of various water sources to better meet and manage growing water needs. The scientific advance is being led by the International Atomic Energy Agency (*New York Times*).

❖ 8/2 • Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he looks forward to working with John Bolton, but stressed that the new US ambassador to the United Nations must cooperate with the world body's 190 other countries to be productive. As Bolton arrived in New York to begin his new work, Annan said the UN and the US depend on each other, adding that the relationship had "frayed a little recently and we should be able to get it back on key" (*USA Today*, 8/1).

❖ 8/9 • Dr Margaret F.C. Shan, who, as the World Health Organization's new chief of pandemic influenza, has the job of stopping a vicious flu from spreading across the globe — a pandemic many predict will happen — spends much of her time putting together clues to an emerging avian flu pandemic and planning how countries should organize and distribute a vaccine (*New York Times*).

❖ 8/31 • Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, will meet with an estimated 16 heads of state during the United Nations World Summit, as the country's UN mission has been deluged with requests for one-on-one get-togethers during the event (*Ha'aretz*).

❖ 9/13 • In a blistering commentary, *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof blasts leaders from rich countries meeting at the United Nations for their failure to fight extreme poverty around the world. Kristof called the summit "the greatest assembly in history — of hypocrites".

## UNA CALENDAR:

### **OCTOBER 22 - UN Day commemoration**

- "The Challenges and Opportunities before the United Nations Today", by Sir Brian Urquhart - Portland Museum of Art, 6 PM

### **OCTOBER 24 - UN Day (60th Anniversary)**

**DECEMBER 3** - UNA-Maine Annual Meeting: luncheon and talk by Bruce Stedman - Holden Frost House, Topsham

★ Looking for a speaker on a UN-related topic for a school, civic club, political meeting, or religious gathering?  
Call Bruce Stedman at 207-882-7387.

*I'm getting pretty tired of being rung up  
by well-meaning people who say,  
'How can we save the United Nations?'  
The question, if any, is 'How can we save the planet?'  
I really wish well-meaning people would stop  
thinking that the United Nations is on the brink  
of extinction, because it is not. It would be  
impossible to abolish the United Nations,  
because most governments need it —  
even the United States does.*

**~ Sir Brian Urquhart**



### **Maine Chapter of the UNA-USA**

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