



newsletter

of the Maine Chapter
of the United Nations Association



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ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

David Pearson was elected to be our new Vice President, succeeding Paul Diamond who resigned. Pearson served as a board member in 2001. He is chair of the Social Studies Department at Kents Hill School and also teaches international relations at the University of Southern Maine.

Kents School has been prominently represented in our Model UN sessions.

Pearson is a former British Infantry officer. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Politics and Strategic Studies from the University of Wales, Master of Philosophy in Political Science from Aberdeen University and a post-graduate Certificate of Education in History from Cheltenham and Gloucester College.

Re-elected as officers were Robert S. Howe, President; Wendy Hazard, Secretary and Trudi Schneider, Treasurer.

Al Niese was elected to a two-year term as director. He is a retired Episcopal priest. Niese attended Rutgers University, earned his baccalaureate degree from General Theological Seminary and has served four churches over 15 years in New Jersey. He has been active with programs for Midcoast Hunger Prevention and Zero Population Growth.

The following currently serving directors were re-elected for two year terms: Lynn Kuzma, Thesil Morlan, Norman Seagrave, Philip Thompson and Charles Weitz. (Directors having one year remaining in their current terms are Thurston Holt, Kenneth Rodman, Mary Lee Rushmore, Barbara Skapa, Lydia Sparrow, and Bruce Stedman.)



IN MEMORIAM



All members will be saddened to learn of the death of our good friend, colleague and devoted publisher of the Newsletter, John Field, on December 28th in Fort Collins, Colorado. John and his wife Florence had moved there from Walpole, Maine about a year ago, to be nearer to his family. John had continued to put the Newsletter together working from Fort Collins, and through cyberspace.

John Field was active in midcoast social and political circles for many years. A good Democrat, he served as campaign treasurer for many candidates for the State Legislature over the years. He oversaw the financial affairs of CONA and the Roundtop Center for the Arts, and helped them with public relations materials. He was a charter member of the UNA-Maine chapter and served as editor and publisher of the Newsletter since its inception. He managed all these tasks with devotion and unfailingly delightful sense of humor, in spite of failing health. We shall miss him immensely.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his annual report to the membership, President Howe reported that the Chapter membership had grown modestly this year, from 122 in 95 households to 133 in 103 households. He circulated an invitation to members to "Turn in Your Friends" - a drive to recruit new members, and hopes to attain a significant expansion of membership in 2002. All current members are urged to consider amongst their social circles friends who would make good acquisitions.

The President listed three major events sponsored by the Chapter in 2001. The Global Health Symposium, which we co-sponsored with the Population Research Center in Washington, D.C., was the first of a series in a national UNA campaign. Held in Portland, it was attended by more than 130 nurses, physicians, public health professionals and lay people. A Gates Foundation grant covered the costs of bringing out-of-state speakers to the symposium, which received excellent print and electronic news coverage and was judged a great success.

The Third Annual Model UN Conference, ably directed by board member professor Lynn Kuzma, in-

involved nine Maine High Schools and a total student participation of 121, nearly double the previous year's attendance. Plans for the 2002 Model UN are proceeding apace. A teachers' workshop for the event was held in the fall of 2001 and was attended by teachers from nine high schools and another six schools are expected to send delegations, bring the anticipated participation to 15 schools. Clearly, the 2002 event will be a major chapter activity. (See also Governor King's reference to the Model UN in his UN Day Proclamation, on page three.)

United Nations Day was observed on October 25th this year, with a well-attended public lecture by UN Ambassador Wilhelm Breitenstein of Finland. (See separate article in this issue about Ambassador Breitenstein's talk.)

In concluding his annual report, President Howe referred to three important milestones achieved by the UN in 2001. First, for the first time in many years, all three major funds of the United Nations were solvent. Second, the President of the United States made a positive public reference to the United Nations. And third, the UN and its Secretary General were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a source of great pride for our members.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The chapter's annual membership meeting was held in the New Meadows Inn on Saturday, December 8th, and was well attended.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bruce Stedman was the keynote speaker. In his remarks, entitled "On International Service", he spoke about his 31 year career with the United Nations Secretariat and related some of his experiences to the events of the day.

The "cold war" held profound significance for the UN, beginning with Senator Joseph McCarthy's allegation that the UN Secretariat was a "hotbed of communism" and the resulting requirement that all American members of the UN staff undergo full FBI field security checks. Big Power rivalries were magnified in newly independent countries, where professed anti-communism became an "open-sesame" to the US Treasury for needy and greedy governments, including several truly odious regimes like those of Mobutu in Zaire and Pinochet in Chile.

Stedman characterized "The Question of Palestine" as a constant and seminal influence on US/UN relations, with the uncritical support of Israel by the

United States coloring US relations with other governments around the world. He called the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte, United Nations Mediator on Palestine, on whose staff he served, as a significant indicator of the mind-set of Israeli extremists and the beginning of the seemingly endless agenda of violence, attack and counter-attack, between Israeli and Arab partisans, culminating in the terrorist attacks on the United States.

The explosive growth in UN membership changed the nature of the organization from a relatively cozy "club" to an uneasy parliament of envious and hungry governments. The resulting shift in the majority to votes of representatives of developing countries was accompanied by a steady deterioration of US official attitudes toward the UN, from the early idealism of FDR and Truman to the pragmatic views of Eisenhower and Nixon and ultimately to the reluctant and often hostile American participation under presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton. President George W. Bush has recently seemed to signal a

major change in US attitudes toward the UN; arrears are being paid, and support is expressed for a UN role in nation-building in Afghanistan. Key appointments by Bush to policy level posts in the State Department and the National Security Council, however, leave room for doubt as to the durability of America's apparent revival of interest in multilateral cooperation. Nevertheless, United Nations successes in the Mediterranean Basin, and, currently in Bonn, were singled out as examples of achievements which could only be possible under the aegis of the United Nations.

Stedman concluded by recalling a question raised some years ago by Paul G. Hoffman, Administrator of the United Nations Development Program: "In the aftermath of World War I, the League of Nations was created to put an end to war as a means of resolving international conflicts. The failure of the League and the ensuing Second World War led to the creation of the United Nations and a new effort to achieve international peace through collective security. Must there be another failure, another global explosion, to generate new efforts to bring peace and harmony to our troubled world?"

UNITED NATIONS DAY

UNA Maine observed United Nations Day 2001 on October 25th at the King Middle School in Portland with a public lecture by Ambassador Wilhelm Breitenstein, former Finnish Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and currently advisor to the United Nations "food for oil" program for Iraq. Speaking just six weeks after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Ambassador Breitenstein addressed himself to the question of "Terrorism and Nation Building - the Role of the UN in the post 9/11 world". An audience of more than 100 heard Ambassador Breitenstein say that the United States must remain committed to the UN organization if it is to play a significant role in fighting terrorism and the conditions that create it. "Suddenly, we realized there is no other option. The United States needs the United Nations and the United Nations needs the United States." Breitenstein stressed that UN's efforts against terrorism should be focussed on elimination of its causes - poverty, inequality and the lack of democracy - in many countries of the world.

Ambassador Breitenstein also addressed what he called unfortunate and unjustified "UN bashing" in the American press and in the speeches of many political leaders. "The United Nations is not that expensive. Its annual budget, including all core functions of the Secretariat in New York, Vienna, Nairobi and the four regional economic commissions, is \$1.25 billion, a small fraction of the budget of New York City. There are 4500 people working in the New York Headquarters while there are 60,000 employed by the municipality of Stockholm. The Congressional staff working on Capitol Hill in Washington is almost double the size of the UN staff. The US is not paying an unfairly big share of the UN budget; its share comes to less than \$300 million or about \$1.10 per US taxpayer. Mayor Giuliani points out that the UN and its diplomatic corps contribute some \$3.4 billion a year to the economy of New York City.

Following the lecture, a private dinner attended by 30 persons was given for Ambassador Breitenstein at the home of board member Dr. Philip Thompson, which was followed by a lively exchange of questions and answers.

GOVERNOR'S UN DAY PROCLAMATION

It has been traditional for the Governor of the State of Maine to issue a proclamation on the occasion of United Nations Day. The text of Governor King's proclamation for UN Day 2001 follows:

PROCLAMATION

"WHEREAS, the United Nations, founded on October 24 1945, continues to serve the populations of the world, seeking to improve standards of living and well-being, to preserve and protect human rights and to eliminate ethnic and other forms of conflict; and

WHEREAS, international cooperation in the framework of the United Nations is vital if solutions are to be found for the growing number of global problems, such as climate change, the spread of infectious disease and increasing environmental degradation, which threaten all forms of life; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Association in Maine has served to inform the citizens of this state of the activities and goals of the United Nations and in particular has provided opportunities for our high school students to experience international cooperation in the form of Model United Nations exercises, in partnership with the University of Maine and the World Affairs Council; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Maine join with all Americans as beneficiaries of the United Nations' efforts to encourage and support them,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANGUS S. KING, JR., Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim October 24th, 2001, as UNITED NATIONS DAY throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to renew their dedication to the promotion of international cooperation."



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Memorabilia
 UNA-Maine has for sale to members a supply of UN
 flags, mounted on pedestals (\$7.00), lapel pins em-
 bossed with the UNA-USA emblem (\$5.00) and UNA-
 USA decals (\$2.00). These items may be ordered
 from Bob Howe, President UNA-Maine, 11 Columbia
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