

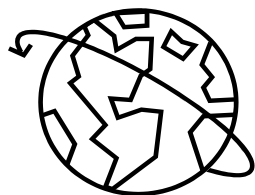
UNA-GKC NEWS

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Up Coming Events in Kansas City and Elsewhere

- November 11, DPI/NGO Communications Workshop, UN Headquarters in New York.
- November 12, Kansas University UNICEF will hold a dinner/auction fundraiser, 6 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 2415 Clinton Parkway in Lawrence, KS. Proceeds go to UNICEF. For further information, email R a s h i d a a t k u _ u n i c e f @ y a h o o . c o m .
- November 20-23 American Model UN Conference, Chicago, Illinois.
- December 1, World AIDS Day. There will be an HIV/AIDS Exhibit in the Main Gallery Visitors' Lobby in the UN Headquarters Building in New York City from December 1 through January, 2005.



Ado Vaher from UNICEF Spoke at UN Dinner

By Vasudeva
Ramaswamy

Mr. Ado Vaher, Director of United Nations Affairs and External Relations for UNICEF, spoke recently at the Kansas City Mayor's UN Day Dinner.

Mr. Vaher began his speech with a tribute to Kansas City, recollecting that it had been a boyhood dream of his to visit the city that seemed to attract all his favorite Jazz players. He quickly moved on to graver issues, in-

forming the audience that although the US has been a staunch ally in the war against child exploitation, there remains a lot to be desired from the country in terms of global commitments. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989 and enforced in 1990, was the most widely accepted human rights treaty in history, being adopted by every country save two – Somalia, and the USA. He went on to elaborate on why such commitments

were of the utmost importance, even to a country like the US, "which far exceeds any of the standards that the UN may set." The UN in general and the UNICEF in particular, he said, provide a strong and impartial framework that allows every country to be equally represented and have their voices heard. By including accountability clauses (like the one that requires every member country to turn in a status report every (continued on page 3)

UNA-USA: Celebrating our History

The *United Nations Association of the United States of America* (UNA-USA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports the work of the United Nations. More specifically it helps educate Americans and encourage their support and active civic participation in the most im-

portant and economic issues facing the world today. As the nation's largest grassroots foreign policy organization, UNA-USA offers Americans the opportunity to connect with issues confronted by the U.N. – from global health and human rights to the spread of democracy, equitable development and international justice.

Just as the United Nations itself, UNA-USA roots extend back to the League of Nations and its American support organization called, the "League of Nations Non-partisan Association," or LNA. In 1944, just prior to the official creation of the United Nations in (continued on page 3)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE UN

"The safety of UN personnel is a top issue surrounding the return of the UN to Iraq."

New UN High Commissioner for Human Rights took office in July, 2004.

Report on the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Actions

Security Council Urges Countries to Contribute Forces to Protect UN in Iraq

The Security Council on October 1, 2004, welcomed proposals by Secretary-General Kofi Annan regarding security arrangements for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and urged Members States to contribute to the effort. The safety of UN personnel and premises has been a top issue surrounding the return of the United Nations to Iraq ever since two bomb attacks against the world body's offices in Baghdad last year led to the eventual withdrawal of all international staff.

In a letter to the Council, the Secretary-General calls for international security staff, protection coordination officers, personal security details and guard units in addition to protection provided by the United States-led multina-

tional force, which would be responsible for security throughout the country. There was no news on the progress in obtaining troops for the security elements. While there were reports that one country would provide assistance, there was nothing to confirm pending a final agreement.

See <http://www.un.org/apps/news/> for more information.

Louise Arbour Takes Up Mandate of High Commissioner

Louise Arbour took up her duties on July 1, 2004 as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Mrs. Arbour was, a member of the Supreme Court of Canada. She served as chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda from 1996 to 2000, during which time she indicted former Yugoslav and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, among others, for war crimes and crimes against humanity for his part in atrocities committed in Kosovo. The indictment of Slobodan Milosevic was the first of a serving Head of State.

Mrs. Arbour was appointed to the Court of Appeal for

Ontario after having served as a trial judge for the High Court of Justice for the Supreme Court of Ontario since 1987. She earned widespread recognition in Canada for her investigation into the operation of the correctional service, based on allegations by female inmates at a women's prison in Kingston, Ontario. For more human rights issues, see <http://www.ohchr.org/english/>.

UN Action on Terrorism

The United Nations operates counter-terrorism programmes throughout its departments, offices and agencies, including:

* The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) monitors implementation of resolution 1373 and reports to the Security Council.

* The Security Council is seized of the question of terrorism as a threat to international peace and security. It meets to review the structure and activities of the CTC at regular intervals and meets on its broader issues related to terrorism as necessary.

* The United Nations Policy Working Group on Terrorism was established by the Secretary-General in October 2001 to identify the implications and broad policy dimensions of terrorism for the United Nations and formulate recommendations. See <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/committees/1373/action.html> for more details.

Ado Vaher spoke at UN Day Dinner (continued from page 1)

5 years), UNICEF ensures the sincerity of each country before working with other Global Financial Organizations to obtain the required money to implement their plans.

Mr. Vaher further stressed the work that UNICEF was doing on the ground today. With an annual budget of \$1.1 billion, UNICEF is the largest organization working towards child welfare. But UNICEF, Mr. Vaher pointed out, does not limit itself to just this; it works in coalition with other branches of the UN to promote the overall development of the world by adopting the Millennium Development Goals. And to illustrate this, he listed out a number of truly impressive facts – less than 50%

50% of children under 5 years die due to preventable diseases than they did 10 years ago, 80% of the world's children have been vaccinated (from 5% 30 years ago), polio, at the given rate of vaccination, will be eradicated soon, and all in all, over 400 million lives have been saved over the last 40 years.

The bottom-line is plain for all to see. This is a dependable system, this is an accountable system, and most importantly, this is a system that works. However, Mr. Vaher warns us that remarkable as its achievements have been, the apathy of powerful organizations and governments can greatly undermine the efficiency of UNICEF. “The state of children is not what it should be or what it could be”, he said.

could be”, he said. And it will not be until the major issues of poverty and HIV have been addressed. While the organization has been working diligently (and, it needs to be said, with phenomenal success) towards solutions, these problems continue to tear into what Mr. Vaher very appropriately termed “the fabric of society”. They continue to pose economic, social and ethical issues that impede progress.

But UNICEF continues to look ahead with optimism, seeking to reduce the number of people with HIV by 25%, eradicate poverty completely by 2015, and provide every girl child with an education. Mr. Vaher strongly believes that these

these “lofty and realistic goals” can be achieved if we as individuals share the responsibility to a) learn about these issues, b) raise these issues when the situation permits it, and c) avoid those simple solutions that only serve to complicate the issue further.

Mr. Vaher has managed to convert his passion for the welfare of children into concrete results, results that have changed and brought hope into the lives of millions of children the world over.

He closed his speech with a quote from the African poet Mongane Serote, “Life is a promise, and that promise is us.”



UNA-USA: Celebrating our History (from p. 1)

1945, LNA changed its name to the American Association for the United Nations (AAUN). After first lady Eleanor Roosevelt completed her term as a U.S. Representative to the U.N. General Assembly, she carried the message of AAUN across the country until her death in November 1962. In 1964 the Business Council of the United Nations (BCUN) merged with AAUN to create the present UNA-USA.

In 1972 the Washington Office of UNA-USA was established. They do-

established. They donated a townhouse at 3 Sutton Place which still serves as the secretary-general's residence when he is in Washington, D.D. Today, UNA-USA has over 175 community-based chapters and divisions across the United States, of which the Kansas City Chapter is one.

UNA-USA has had a host of noteworthy Board Members and Associates, such as: George Ball, L. Paul Bremer III, John C. Danforth, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas Fair-

Eisenhower, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Orville Freeman, Katharine Graham, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Henry Kissinger, Arthur Ross, Brent Scowcroft, Harry Truman, and Earl Warren. In 1997 media mogul Ted Turner donated \$1 billion over 10 years to establish the United Nations Foundation, which allowed UNA-USA to establish an education alliance with Seton Hall University and launch its first website.

UNA-USA has been instrumental in developing a number of programs, among which are the

among which are the first National High School Essay Contest on the U.N., the Model U.N. program, and Global Classrooms whose curriculum has reached over 60,000 students. Our UNA-USA Greater Kansas City Chapter (GKC) has stimulated the establishment of several Model U.N. programs in local high schools and universities and takes leadership each year of the Mayor's Annual United Nations Day Dinner. If you are not yet a UNA-USA/GKC member, please become one by contacting K.C. Chapter President Jay Sjverren (816) 569-4523.

**United Nations Association of the
United States of America
Greater Kansas City Chapter**

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**We're on the Web
at www.una-kc.org**



**On This Day in
History**

- November 16: International Day of Tolerance
- November 20: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child unanimously adopted by General Assembly, 1989
- November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women .
- December 1: World AIDS Day
- December 3: International Day of Disabled Persons since 1992
- December 5: International Volunteers Day and Night of 1000 Dinners
- December 10: Human Rights Day. Also former President Jimmy Carter was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.
- December 29: UN Peacekeepers arrived on Kosovo-Macedonian border, 1992



UNA-GKC MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to become a member of the UNA-USA, Greater Kansas City Chapter, please use the form below or register online at www.unausa.org. If you are already member, we thank you for your continued support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email : _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Bus Phone: _____

I am interested in a new membership

I am interested in renewing my existing membership

I am purchasing a gift membership

Chapter: Greater Kansas City Area Chapter

Membership: \$1000 Lifetime (one time dues payment)

\$ 500 Patron

\$ 100 Sponsor

\$ 40 Member

\$ 25 Introductory (First Year Only)

\$ 25 Senior

\$ 10 Student

Please make your check payable to UNA-USA and send it to:

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