

From The President

Col. Frank Titus (ret.)
Columbus Chapter President



Welcome to the 52nd Anniversary of the Columbus International Festival. Our volunteers have worked for over a year preparing for one of the premier international festivals in the USA. As Columbus and Central Ohio become increasingly internationalized in culture, business and finance, the United Nations Association – USA Columbus Chapter strives to inform, educate and inspire people regarding the important role of the United Nations through agencies as diverse as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Health Organization, as well as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Our post 9-11 world requires each of us to seek greater understanding of and appreciation for persons whose nationality and ethnicity are different from our own. The importance of significant efforts for global peace and global cooperation start right here in Columbus, Ohio. We need to use opportunities like the Columbus International Festival to increase our awareness of many diverse ethnic groups in our rapidly growing urban area. Our greater understanding of our neighbors in Central Ohio can lead to a greater quality of life and security here at home and abroad.

The Columbus International Festival offers fun, food, entertainment and education to people of all ages. The Festival seeks to preserve the best of our traditions from The Old World, Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas. The Festival also offers insights into the most contemporary issues and the opportunity for a positive vision for our future. Thank you for joining us at the Columbus International Festival!

Sincerely,

Frank A. Titus, COL, USAF, (ret.)
President
UNA-USA Columbus Chapter



FESTIVAL, *From Page 1*

are going to be offered for the first time as well as information on other immunizations. World Health statistics from World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization are also provided at the festival. As a whole unit, the Health Fair integrates the international health practices and statistics as it deals with the total aspects of the human body from head to toe. Healthful living is emphasized. PREVENTION is key.



Mapping the human genome has shown that we are all one human family no matter our culture, color or creed. So, there is nothing more common globally and internationally as keeping the human body healthy. This is in fact the scope and concern of the World Health Organization (WHO), which is a very vital United Nations Agency. At the Columbus International Festival Health Fair, we feature the work of the World Health Organization through a series of posters developed by Dr. Chad Alger and illustrated by one of our talented former interns, Stephanie Root. The Flu-Net illustrates how various countries and regions all over the world cooperate and work together to identify the wave of flu microbes (including the bird flu) sweeping the globe and under time pressure develop the necessary vaccine for the flu season around the globe and across the United States. We also feature how the WHO interrelates with the other UN agencies through the UN organizational chart. This has been an eye-opener for many to know that the WHO is part of the UN System.

For the business executives who travel frequently or those who travel for vacation or leisure, the Columbus International Festival Health Fair offers travel tips and advisories for any destination country around the globe. The health condition including immunizations required of the country being visited can be readily available. US State Department advisories are also available. If notified ahead, we can try to get people from the country being visited available to answer further questions.

The Columbus International Health Fair is a celebration of wellness and healthful living. The health fair was added as a component of the Columbus International Festival in response to UNA-USA's Global Health Initiative campaign. To get the Health Fair aground, UNA-USA gave the Columbus chapter seed money in 2001 and 2002. The Health Fair has grown tremendously since its inception and is continuing to grow. Being a very important public service and community outreach, the Health Fair has helped the Columbus International Festival raise funds. The two are synergistic! **Come to the Columbus International Festival, Nov 3-4, 2007.** Participate in the Health Fair and other activities!

Dispatch Misses Important Chance to Cover UN Day

In order to enhance The Columbus Dispatch's coverage of UN Day, Chad Alger, a member of our Board and former Chapter President, submitted an article, "This is UN Day". The Dispatch elected not to print Dr. Alger's article.

Furthermore, on October 24 the Dispatch provided no information on the event of worldwide significance that took place on this day. Therefore, Dr. Alger wrote a Letter to the Editor. The Dispatch did not print this letter. The UNA-USA, Columbus Chapter, is exceedingly disappointed in the failure of the Dispatch to inform its readers of the great importance of this date for all citizens of this country and all people throughout the world.

Today is UN Day

The UN Charter came into force on 24 October 1945, two months after the end of World War II. The United States played a very active role in development of the UN. The founding conference was held in San Francisco, from 15 April to 25 June. The headquarters of the UN was established in New York City. In 1947 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution declaring October 24th United Nations Day, to be commemorated annually by all member-states of the United Nations. Strong U.S. support for the establishment of the UN was largely in response to the belief that the U.S. had made a great mistake by not joining the League of Nations, founded in Geneva, Switzerland following World War I. It is very important for citizens of this democracy to know that 1200 voluntary organizations were involved in creation of the UN Charter at the San Francisco conference.

On UN Day 2007 U.S. government support of the UN has become less like that of 1945, and more like its unilateral spirit in the days of the League of Nations. This is reflected in the unwillingness of the U.S. to ratify a host of widely ratified treaties aimed at building a world ruled by law, including: International Criminal Court (94 member states), Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of antipersonnel mines and on their destruction (143 ratifications), Convention on rights of the child (ratified by all member-states but the United States and Somalia), Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (146 ratifications), Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (177 ratifications), The UN framework convention on climate change: Kyoto Protocol (124 ratifications), International Seabed Authority (143 member states), International Tribunal for Law of the Sea (143 member states), Prohibition of nuclear testing (115 ratifications). Very significant is the fact that most of the states with whom the United States shares values on law and governance, in Europe and beyond, have ratified all of these treaties.

The broad agenda of issues in these treaties reflect significant learning that has taken place since the founding of the League of Nations. The most affective way for achieving peace is not to react to acts of violence after they happen. Instead, what is required is long-term peace building that overcomes conditions that lead to violence.

Those who oppose these treaties often argue that ratification would reduce U.S. sovereignty. But what does sovereignty mean, but controlling ones fate? Toward this end it is necessary to develop political organizations that reach to the borders of a problem. For example, people in one country alone cannot acquire sovereignty over the air they breath. Sovereignty over air pollution can only be acquired through the development of rules agreed to by all countries involved in air pollution. In this ever more connected world we must recognize that more and more economic and social problems cross all political borders. As a result, peaceful solutions to more and more problems require the participation of people in all involved countries.

The U.S.-sponsored UN General Assembly resolution, in 1947, declaring October 24th United Nations Day, challenges all U.S. citizens in this democracy to ponder on this day whether they are fulfilling their responsibilities with respect to the actions of their government in the United Nations. At the same time, few people are aware that more than 2400 voluntary organizations now have consultative status with the UN, and many of them are increasingly involved in UN decision-making. It is likely that all readers are members of at least one of these organizations. Today members of these organizations must ponder their responsibilities for the UN policies of these organizations.

As the most powerful member-state of the UN, both economically and militarily, the U.S. could be an influential model for other states, now and in the future, by using its influence for developing a wider array of laws that enhance our security, and that of all people in the world, now and in the future. Instead it is receding to its unilateral policies in League of Nations days, and relying primarily on employment of military power.

In conclusion, comparison of the US military budget and the UN budget offers a serious intellectual challenge to all readers on this UN Day. The budget for the UN System in 2007 was about \$20 billion, or about \$3 for each of the world's inhabitants. The UN System includes not only the UN organization founded in 1945, but also fifteen specialized agencies that have become members of the UN System, for example, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Labor Organization (ILO), and World Health Organization (WHO). In contrast, the US military budget in 2007 was \$626 billion. Thus the budget for the UN

Redlight Children Campaign: A UNACOL Advocacy Project

Maryan Roble
Redlight Children Project Intern



Child Trafficking and exploitation may sound like just one of those complaints that are brought forth by what many would call 'attention seeking activists' today. The notion of having to sexually exploit children itself is chilling and mind numbing. The statistics out there for this evil practice is beyond comprehension and enough to numb anyone who claims to be moral and realistic enough with respect to the issue. Children are trafficked throughout the world today for the soul purpose of being exploited by adults who have no sympathy for the innocent lives they are crushing.

Let us start by defining child trafficking is. Trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of people, by means of threats, force, coercion or deception. People can be trafficked for a whole host of reasons including sexual exploitation, or to provide cheap labor for domestic or commercial purposes, according to UNICEF. According to the United Nations, over 2 million children are trafficked and sold into prostitution every year. There are even brothels that specialize in infants under two years of age. Despite the humiliation of this kind, children, as naïve as they may be, are subjected to dangers of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancies. Their worst dilemma however, is the contraction of the killer virus that causes the incurable AIDS. We need to ask ourselves, "Aren't these children worth anything?" Aren't they entitled to being just kids and nothing more? These questions may be hard for many of us to face.

One may also demand an answer as to what causes this kind of inhumane behavior. Sex tourism is on the frontline of this activity. Although it is illegal to engage children under 18 in sexual activities, a lot of these rules are not enforced. While Asian countries are the most notorious for this practice, it is a global problem and one that is growing in the United States where traffickers are starting to bring the children to the buyers. According to Columbus Police Department Detective Ken Lawson, there are major airports in the United States where "businessmen" can schedule a 3-4 hour gap in their flights and be chauffeured to and from a brothel where they can have sex with a 12-16 year old girl. Of course, they are guaranteed that they will not miss their next flight.



Guy Jacobson is one of the few people who decided enough is enough after visiting the



city of Phnom Penh's red-light district in Cambodia. He vowed to start campaigning against the child sexploitation in the country after a swarm of children as young as 5 years old were soliciting prostitution

to him during his visit. A lawyer and an investment banker by profession, Guy started the K-11 project and the Redlight Children Campaign and has produced three films on child prostitution and exploitation. His three films have made it to film festivals like Edinburgh in the UK and other film festivals and premiere around the country beginning in November (<http://www.priorityfilms.com/locations.php>). Guy's film Holly is the most talked about. A 12 year old girl from Vietnam, Holly is sold into prostitution in Cambodia by her family. She meets Patrick, an American antiques dealer, as she waits to be sold at a high price because of her virginity. She is then bought by a child trafficker and Patrick is determined to look for the girl and save her from her ordeal with child prostitution. This is an eye opening film that shows the reality of the illegal business. The movie is enough to bring chills to anyone who has a drop of sympathy in them for the oppressed little lives that have no one to turn to. The Redlight Children Campaign is focused on bringing awareness through passing information. It has succeeded in bringing the awareness to colleges and universities that have been creating chapters to raise awareness. The students at the Ohio State University have formed the "Redlight Children Student Organization". This new student organization is targeting the leaders and policy makers of tomorrow. The group's email address is osuredlight@gmail.com.

The campaign also pays special attention on the laws that needs to be passed, how to enforce current legislation and how to fund the whole initiative. The creation of the Redlight Children Student Association at Ohio State University is one of the campaign strategies that will combat child sexploitation..



This organization is striving to bring the Guy Jacobson's movie Holly, to Columbus after it premieres in New York November 9th 2007. The student organization and the interns are striving to bring as much attention as possible to this issue. They are also working to bring in the media and press, community leaders of all faiths and working with the Columbus Police Department, in one spirit of completely eradicating this problem.

Please see **REDLIGHT**, Page 6

UN-AU Coalition Presses Ahead in Darfur

UN Wire



The United Nations and African Union (AU) envoys chairing historic talks aimed at resolving the crisis in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region continued their substantive preparations in Sirte, Libya, in pressing ahead with the peace process. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy Jan Eliasson and his AU counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim have met with representatives from the Sudanese Government, civil society, international partners and rebel groups, UN spokesperson Michele Montas told reporters in New York.

The topics addressed in their discussions included security and the sharing of wealth and power. Preparations are also being made for a senior-level team to travel to Sudan to hold talks with those groups who are not attending the Sirte event. Addressing the press, Mr. Eliasson stressed that despite the absence of several parties in Sirte, "I refuse to state that the peace process is interrupted. The train has left the station for the road to peace. The question is how many passengers will get on the train." Despite all sides not being in attendance at the talks, Mr. Salim stated that these sides "have made it clear to us their commitment to the process, that they would want to take part in the process so it is a question of how we make sure that they take part in the process."

Since 2003, over 200,000 people have been killed and at least 2.2 million others forced to flee their homes in the violence-wracked Darfur region because of fighting among rebels, Government forces and allied militia known as the Janjaweed. On the humanitarian front, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes has voiced strong concern over alleged forced relocations taking place in a camp for internally displaced persons in South Darfur. "I am alarmed about the reports of forced relocation from Otash camp in Nyala, South Darfur, both about the manner in which the relocations were apparently carried out and the possibility that such action could contribute to more violence," he said.

Otash camp shelters over 60,000 IDPs, and during the incident, the new IDPs from Kalma camp, the largest in Darfur, were surrounded by the police. A team comprising personnel from the UN, the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was denied access to the camp by the representative of the Humanitarian Aid Commission. The team managed to enter the camp, and witnessed 10 vehicles with heavy machine guns surrounding a group of IDPs while eight large commercial trucks were being loaded with the belongings of IDP women and children. The police told the team that the people were being moved to Amakassara.

"While the United Nations notes the Government's

concern about the security situation in the camps, it is imperative that any relocation be wholly voluntary, in agreement with the internally displaced," said Mr. Holmes, who also serves as Emergency Relief Coordinator. "We have had many meetings with the Government of Sudan, stressing that any relocation should be voluntary and should adhere to the guiding principles of internal displacement," he added. "Given that security forces were threatening the displaced with sticks and rubber hoses at Otash camp, the involuntary nature of this relocation is clear, and is contrary to agreements with the Government."

Relocation is covered by the 2004 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the UN, IOM and the Sudanese Government. IOM is concerned by the reported force relocation of IDPs from Otash camp and is preparing a formal statement following an investigation, expressing particular concern that they and other members of the international community were denied access to the IDPs during the relocation.

Meanwhile in Sudan, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan, Ashraf Qazi, met with the country's President, Omar al-Bashir. Mr. Qazi reiterated the UN's commitment to assist the parties in implementing the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which ended a 21-year civil war between North and South Sudan. He emphasized that the CPA is the basis for sustainable peace and stability in the country, as well as a significant achievement for the Sudanese people. Agreeing to the significance of the CPA, President Bashir voiced hope that the relationship between his Government and the UN would continue to be characterized by dialogue and direct consultations.

The Special Representative also noted that he plans to visit Juba in the coming days to meet with Salva Kiir, First-Vice President of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan. In another development, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan told a General Assembly committee that Darfur "remains a region where gross violations of human rights are perpetrated by all parties," including arbitrary arrest, torture, illegal taxation, extortion, forced displacement, killing and sexual violence.

"The conflict in Darfur has no military solution," Sima Samar told the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. "Political solutions are urgently needed." Also addressing the Committee, the Secretary-General's Representative on the human rights of IDPs, Walter Kälin, said he would visit Darfur in the Spring of 2008 at the invitation of the Government. "The situation of roughly 2 million IDPs in Darfur remains one of the most serious in the world," he said, calling on all concerned to "take full advantage" of the peace talks, as well as the deployment of a hybrid AU-UN force, to create conditions to end violence against the displaced, to allow unimpeded humanitarian access, and to facilitate sustainable return.

REDLIGHT, from Page 4

In another effort against the child sex slavery again in Cambodia, Dateline NBC did an undercover investigation 2 years ago in the same city that prompted Guy Jacobson's efforts. Once again, sex tourism was prominent and although



culprits were from all over the world, American males were frequent tourists. Estimates show that about 750,000 tourist visit Cambodia, mostly not for the intricacies of the land itself but a good percentage go there to fulfill their malicious and egocentric personal needs. Although poverty has been blamed for the sale of children into this kind of business, the market keeps them there. With hidden cameras, the producers, investigators and human rights officials went to brothels and posed as 'sex tourists.' They lured the pimps into getting them child prostitutes and ended up busting them. Several pimps and brothel owners were arrested and more than 30 children rescued from their handlers. An American doctor who disgraces his own medical profession, was one of the sex tourists caught on the hidden camera. This past month, a Canadian teacher was captured by Interpol after he had produced videos of himself abusing young boys. He thought that he was safe by scrambling his own image, but a clever Interpol computer programmer was able to recover and expose image, leading to his arrest in Thailand. It is hard to digest the fact that someone trained to save people's lives, and teach small children, are taking the opposite route to completely destroy them! The US government has joined in the fight against child prostitution and has pledged \$1 million towards the effort as of 2005 according to the NBC Documentary. We need to do much more.

**ALGER**, from Page 3

System was only equal to 3% of the military expenditures of one member-state. In 2007 total U.S. contributions to the UN System, both assessed and voluntary, were \$3 billion, much less than one per cent of the U.S. military budget.

Dr. Alger's Letter to the Editor

I was very disappointed when I read my daily newspaper – The Columbus Dispatch – today. It is October 24, UN Day. I expected that the Dispatch would remind its readers that the UN Charter came into force on 24 October 1945, two months after the end of World War II.

The U.S. played a very active role in development of the UN. The founding conference was held in San Francisco. UN headquarters was established in New York City. In 1947 the UN General Assembly adopted a U.S.-sponsored resolution declaring October 24th UN Day, to be commemorated annually by all member-states of the UN. Strong U.S. support for founding the UN was largely in response to the belief that the U.S. had made a great mistake by not joining the League of Nations, following World War I.

On UN Day 2007 some would say that U.S. government support of the UN has become less like that of 1945, and more like its unilateral spirit in the days of the League of Nations. I hoped to see an article that would challenge readers, on this day, in this democracy, to think about the importance of the UN to the security of their future and that of their children and grandchildren. All citizens should evaluate the UN performance of their government in Washington, and inform their representatives in Washington of their opinions on UN issues.

In this democracy we depend on our newspaper to provide the information that we need in order to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens. The Dispatch certainly failed us today, on this day of great significance in US History – UN Day.

Chadwick F. Alger is the Mershon Professor of Political Science and Public Policy Emeritus at the Ohio State University. A past president of the UNA-USA Columbus Chapter, Alger was Director of the Mershon Program in Transnational Intellectual Cooperation in the Policy Sciences (1971-81) and Director of the Mershon Program in World Relations (1982-91). Subjects of research have included decision-making in the U.N. General Assembly, the role of non-governmental organizations in the struggle for human rights and economic well-being, evolving roles of NGOs in U.N. decision-making, potential roles of the U.N. System in the 21st century, religion as a peace tool, the expanding tool chest for peace builders, and why the United States needs the U.N. System.



Model United Nations: “what we are”... 'Strive to Make a Difference' 2007

“OURMUN”, UNA-USA, for High Schools & Universities

Model UN groups have participated in Forums, Conferences, Conflict-Resolution Programs, and 'Strive to Make a Difference' Events. Some University Hosts include: *Ohio State University, Ohio University, Ohio Northern University, University of Dayton, Kent State University, Ohio Dominican, and Franklin University. Others are - University of Northern Iowa, Michigan State University, Earlham College, Gannon University, and others.*

Major events have included: *International Festival/Global Forum in Columbus, Ohio,, African Summit in Washington D.C., United States Nationals at the United Nations in New York, West Coast Invitational in California, Boston Global Educational Studies in Boston, The American Regional in Mexico City plus more.*

Local events may include *Habitat for Humanity, Unity Day, Flood Relief, Town Meetings*

A sample of Conference Committees:

Disarmament - Small arms, North Korea Crisis, Weapons of Mass Destruction

Social/Humanitarian - Rights of Aging People, Famine in Africa, Abortion, Refugees, Child Soldiers, Rights of Women

Legal - Airport Security, Sovereignty (Arms Inspection), Treatment of Enemy Combatants, Protection of UN Personnel

Terrorism - State Sponsored Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism

OAS - Illegal Drug Trafficking, Free Trade, Technology for the Advancement of Agriculture and Economies, Slave Trade

ICJ - Detention of Terrorists, Hungary vs. Slovakia, Democratic Republic of Congo vs. Rwanda

SC1 (Military Staff Committee) - Cyprus, Enforcing UN Decisions, Peace Keeping in West Africa

SC2 (Asia) - North Korea, China/Taiwan, Cashmere

SC3 (Africa) - Crisis in Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Diamonds in Conflict from Sierra Leone

SC4 (Middle East) - Israel/Palestine, Security in Iraq, Iran and Nuclear Weapon Development

SC 5 (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) - Chechnya, Afghanistan, The Balkans

Students typically meet once a week to learn and prepare. Each may be involved in Fund raising activities to cover expenses of 'Conference' Events that may total up to \$1,600.00 .

Examples: Cookie Dough Sales; Raffles; Valentine Flower Sales; Kroger Sheet Cake Bake; etc plus Adopt-a-Delegate; also Corporate, Small Business, and Individual Sponsors.

Once or twice a year a 'Town' or 'Community' Meeting is organized to have students Demonstrate their skills and involvement in their Model UN Program.

All interested persons are encouraged to come.

**The Staff: Len Baldwin, UNA-USA Model UN Advisor and Director; Chrystal Schrock Montgomery, Coordinator; High School Educators and University Interns .. plus involved parents. lbaldwin@unacol.org, lbaldwin@ci.powell.oh.us , PO Box 301, Marysville, Ohio 43040
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Make a difference just one day, and a life-time of Hope and Possibilities is born.



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