



The Vital Role of UNICEF in Iraq

A discussion with Katie Scolari, a program manager for the US Fund for UNICEF (unicefusa.org), followed by UNA-SF's Annual Membership Meeting (open to the public)

Thurs., May 8, 7:30 pm

3220 Sacramento Street, Third Floor, San Francisco

The US Fund for UNICEF's Katie Scolari will bring us up to date on UNICEF's present and future work with children in Iraq (see unicefusa.org and unicef.org). The program will be followed by a membership meeting and refreshments. The event will give us the opportunity as members to get re-acquainted as a group. Members \$10, Students \$5, Nonmembers \$15.

The Role of the UN in Resolving International Conflicts

The Honorable Jan Kavan

President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the UN

Tues., April 29, 5:15 pm

Wine & Cheese Reception, 5:15 pm; Program, 6:00 pm

The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco

595 Market Street, Second Floor, San Francisco > p. 2

Networking for a Culture Of Peace

UNA of San Francisco announces the San Francisco Action Network

Activist organizations have a variety of perspectives and concerns that shape their values and actions. Could they but come together, a larger systems view of the state of the world and a new vision of the future would be facilitated. Yet they seldom find the articulate collective voice necessary to form an effective constituency for change. > p. 2

Corporate Ethics: Implementation Challenges & Incentives

Wed., April 30, 6:00 pm

Reception, 6:00 pm; Program, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Downtown location, to be announced upon registration.

This program is organized by the World Affairs Council of Northern California and co-sponsored by UNA-SF and two other organizations. It is the second panel discussion in the *World Affairs Council Corporate Program* series on "Re-defining Corporate Social Responsibility." > p. 2

< p. 1 The Role of the UN in Resolving International Conflicts

At this critical time in the development of the United Nations, we are pleased to present Jan Kavan, the President of the General Assembly. Mr. Kavan was formerly the Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. He brings to the presidency of the General Assembly experience in reshaping the Czech Republic after the Cold War, and two decades of political work in exile before the time of the Republic, fighting for democracy and human rights.

The UN is at the center of the debate about its changing role in Iraq. Come and hear what the leader of the General Assembly has to say about this vital topic.

UNA members may attend for the special price of \$9. Please pre-register by calling 415-597-6705 or online at www.commonwealthclub.org. The program is co-sponsored by the Consulate of the Czech Republic, the Commonwealth Club of California, and the United Nations Association of San Francisco.

< p. 1 Corporate Ethics: Implementation Challenges & Incentives

The panel will highlight companies who are both reacting to and shaping global institutions, committing to high standards for global business practice through engagement with institutions such as the United Nations. Learn what the UN Global Compact and World Business Council for Sustainable Development do with companies from the US and abroad to help them meet goals for ethical and socially responsible business practices.

Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss with panelists the implementation of CSR and ethics policies, and address the operational challenges and incentives that are being used by companies in various functional areas of their operations.

Featured panelists include:

Georg Kell, Executive Head of the UN Global Compact;

Claude Fussier, World Business Council on Sustainable Development; and

Ken Larson, Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Hewlett Packard

Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For further information or for reservations call the World Affairs Council at 415-293-4680 or see itsyourworld.org.

The program is co-sponsored by the United Nations Association of San Francisco, the British American Chamber of Commerce, and the Harvard Business School Alumni Association of Northern California.

< p. 1 Networking for a Culture of Peace

There is a need for a sustained dialogue and the ability to respond to rapidly emerging challenges. The recent past has brought this home with great force. We feel drawn to use the momentum provided by current events to engage people in public dialogue. At the local level it is especially timely to respond to Mayor Willie Brown's Proclamation inviting all citizens to make San Francisco a model city of peace and human rights in the world community.

The San Francisco Action Network – A New Forum

UNA-SF is initiating the San Francisco Action Network, inviting like-minded organizations to participate in promoting lasting peace that benefits all. One of the goals is to provide a neutral forum to join forces and find common ground and solutions to common concerns.

The San Francisco Action Network has initiated a series of events entitled "The Vital Role of the UN". The subject of the first event was on sustainable development with keynote speaker Douglas Mattern (see his article on p. 3, "There's No Business Like War Business"), President of the Association of World Citizens, and a panel of four delegates reporting on the UN Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. This was followed by a lively question-and-answer period by a standing-room only audience.

The second event, "The Vital Role of the UN in Preserving Planet Earth" was held in February at the historic St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco. The keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Muller, former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Chancellor for the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica, was cheered by an enthusiastic crowd of over 300, inspired by his fresh-thinking about directions the world should take toward peace. This was preceded by an excellent and informative speech by Susan Zipp introducing The Earth Charter.

The next event, titled "The Vital Role of the UN in Creating Lasting Peace" will deal with the importance of the UN itself, the only global organization with a mandate "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

The informational programs are part of the benefits of being a member of the United Nations Association of San Francisco. While the initial focus would be on supporting the San Francisco community, it is intended to inspire and develop similar networks, addressing both local and global concerns.

For more information on the San Francisco Action Network, contact Brent Hunter, brent@spiritrising.tv.

There's No Business Like War Business

By Douglas Mattern,
The War and Peace Foundation

We are now in the third year of the new century and we stand bewildered by what happened to the wonderful expressions of hope and joy that were expressed in the millennium celebrations. Today, only three years later, the world is a mirror image of the 20th century, which was the most brutal and destructive in human history. A major factor is the war business that promotes militarism and conflict while producing enormous financial benefit. A tragic indicator of the values of our civilization is that "There's no business like war business".

Since 1992, the US exported over \$142 billion worth of weapons to states around the world. This macabre world market is dominated by the US, which accounted for nearly half of all weapon sales in 2001, more than \$12 billion for US manufacturers. The Center for International Policy estimates that about 80% of US arms exports to the developing world go to non-democratic regimes.

Of the active conflicts in 1999, the US supplied weapons or military training to parties in 39 of 42 conflicts. Other leading nations in this "merchants of death" business include Russia, France, Great Britain, China, Germany, and to a lesser, but still murderous degree, Sweden, Israel, Belgium, Belarus, Italy and North Korea. For US companies, the really big money is in the annual Pentagon budget. Over \$60 billion was allocated to purchase new weapons for 2002. The Pentagon spends over \$3 billion annually in research and development for new weapons. The US armament industry is the second most subsidized industry after agriculture.

The Cold War ended over a decade ago, but the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports the world nuclear stockpile consists of over 30,000 warheads. In addition to deployed nuclear warheads, thousands more are held in reserve and are not counted in official declarations. Moreover, thousands of US and Russian warheads are on a hair-trigger alert, ready for launch in a few minutes of notice; thus we remain under the daily threat of incineration whether by accident or design.

Another example of the lunacy of retaining nuclear weapons was when BBC reported that

some scientists, along with some military chiefs, are alarmed that a small asteroid passing close to the earth could accidentally trigger a nuclear war if mistaken for a missile strike. No wonder that General George Lee Butler, former head of the US Strategic Air Command, says there is no security in nuclear weapons, and "It's a fools game".

Today in the US, and in several countries around the world, the war business is in full swing with thousands of scientists and engineers going to work daily with the task of building or developing new weapons, including space-based weapons that will turn the heavens into a new source of terrorism for humanity below.

At the same time, UN Secretary General Koffi Annan reminds us that half of humanity lives in poverty, existing on an average of \$2 a day. The Arias Foundation reports that world military spending increased from \$798 billion in 2000 to \$839 billion in 2001. Half of the world's governments spend more on the military than for health care. The war business is the world's ultimate criminal activity. Our greatest challenge is to pull down the curtain on the "architects of destruction" and put the war business permanently out-of-business.



United Nations Association of San Francisco

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The United Nations Association of San Francisco (UNA-SF) is the San Francisco chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), a national, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing US participation in the United Nations system and to strengthening that system as it seeks to define and carry out its mission.

UNA-USA, based in New York City, carries out its action agenda through a unique combination of public outreach, policy analysis, and international dialogue.

UNA-USA is the largest foreign policy association in the nation. Its nationwide network of chapters and divisions reaches a broad cross-section of the American public.

UNA-USA provides information and educational services on the work of the UN and on global issues for students, scholars, Congress, and the media. Its publications, including *The InterDependent* are available from its web site www.unausa.org. Each year UNA-USA coordinates the observance of United Nations Day (October 24) in hundreds of communities across the nation.

United Nations Association
of San Francisco



Membership Application

[Membership in UNA-USA and UNA-SF includes a subscription to *UNA-SF Courier*, the national UNA-USA newspaper *The InterDependent*, invitations to special events in the Bay Area, and other benefits.]

Enclosed are my tax-deductible membership dues and contributions for twelve months:

- New membership Renewal
- Individual membership, \$35
- Family or organization membership, \$40
- Student membership, \$10
- Limited income individual, \$20, or family, \$25
- Sponsor, \$100 Patron, \$500
- Additional contribution to support
 - UNA-SF chapter activities, \$ _____
 - UNA-USA national programs, \$ _____
- I would like to volunteer my services.

Special abilities: _____

(Send a copy of this part to UNA-SF)

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City, state, zip _____

Telephone _____

Fax; e-mail _____

Amount paid _____

Signature _____

[Please send a copy of this form with a check to
UNA-USA, 801 Second Avenue; New York, NY 10017.
See also <http://www.unausa.org> or call 212-907-1342.]
