



Communiqué

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Upcoming Events


Spanish Consul General and Ex-Ambassador the U.N.

The next event will be a luncheon with Spanish Consul General and ex-Ambassador of Spain to the United Nations Inocencio Arias. Ambassador Arias will discuss Spanish history and current Ibero-American relations. Don't miss this chance to hear one of Spain's most prominent diplomats discuss this fascinating country.



The luncheon will be held July 9th at the Island Palms Marina.

Bastille Day Celebration

Join us  July 19th for a French cultural dinner and discussion in honor of Bastille Day. The World Affairs Council will host Dr. Alain Lescart of Alliance Française. Dr. Lescart will discuss French food and culture, and contemporary relations between France and the United States. Between the fascinating discussion and the French Onion Soup, this is an event not to be missed!

The dinner will be held July 19th at the French Pastry Shop.

Looking Back

Palestinian Ambassador Afif Safieh



Israeli Consul General Ehud Danoch



Deputy Consul General Moore



African Summit



Ambassador Dennis Ross



Persian Cultural Dinner

On May 23rd, the San Diego World Affairs Council hosted a Persian cultural dinner at Sadaf Restaurant. Dr. Randy Willoughby, professor of political science at the University of San Diego discussed the topic of a nuclear Iran.

The World Affairs Council was treated to a dinner of traditional Persian food, including eggplant and spinach birani with flatbread and maust o khiar, vegetable and lamb kabobs, rice with barberries, desert, and tea.



Dr. von Ber, Dr. Willoughby, and Lisa Hare at the Persian cultural dinner

After dinner Dr. Willoughby discussed the history of nuclear armament country-by-country, ending with Iran's current ambitions toward nuclear development. Dr Willoughby compared Iran's current situation with that of other nuclear states. He highlighted Iran's attempt to use their signing of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a reason to obtain peaceful and energy related nuclear technology, similar to the situation in North Korea before they withdrew. Dr. Willoughby closed by emphasizing the need for caution and diplomacy in dealing with the current nuclear situation, both in Iran and on a global level.

Perspectives from the President



Dr. Ina von Ber

WELCOME,
BIENVENUE,
WILLKOMMEN,
BIENVENIDOS,
BENVENUTI to a
SDWAC update!

Dear members,

First I would like to thank the outgoing board members for all of their work and dedication. You will be missed, and I hope you will stay active in the Council! Second, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the returning members and the new board for 2007-2008 ~ I look forward to working with all of you during the next year; we will

make sure to work hard and have fun at the same time!

We had some marvelous events during the 2006-2007 year; exciting speakers, lovely cultural dinners -- a very successful year! I set many goals for SDWAC, all of which have been accomplished, taking the organization to the next level. Our programs continued to run year-round and draw large audiences. Membership has increased, and our financial situation and change in organizational structure reflect wonderful progress. I am proud to announce to you that I have formed an Advisory Board, we now have an up and running Young Professionals Forum, and our North County Chapter continues to of-

fer very interesting, free of charge morning programs

Our office staff, Brandon, Jessica and Joe are working hard to maintain and improve the quality of our programs.

This summer my travels are taking me to Fuerteventura (North Coast of Africa), Duesseldorf, Istanbul, Athens, the Croatian and Dalmatian Coasts, Venice, Florence and Amsterdam, but I should be back in time for our first August program.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you at the Spanish and French events,

Dr. Ina von Ber

Ambassador Afif Safieh

Fatah, Hamas, and the Future of Middle East Peace

At the World Affairs Council's largest event this year, Ambassador Safieh discussed the future of Palestinian politics, and its implications for the Middle East Peace Process. With over 130 people, this was the biggest SDWAC event of the year so far. After a lovely dinner at the Marriot Hotel in Del Mar, guests were able to hear from the Ambassador regarding of the most salient and complicated political situations in modern times.

Since the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005, Palestine's quest for statehood has been marked by both new advances, and great difficulties. The rise to power of Hamas thrust the Palestinian Authority even further into the international spotlight, causing reactions all over the world. The question of Palestinian statehood is being put to the test in a fundamental way, and remains key to the future prospect for peace in the region.

Ambassador Afif addressed the subject of the state of daily life and commerce in the Middle East under the current controls imposed by the Israeli government. He illustrated the difficulties of bringing goods in and out of the territories using the example of a Coca Cola truck waiting through a day of inspection to deliver its cargo.

Referencing French foreign policy as a role model, the ambassador discussed the potential for a democratic state in the territories, and illustrated the



Importance of the involvement of the international community.

Ambassador Safieh was firm in his belief that the Palestinians would have their own state in the future. He listed Israel's attempts to delay this process as a factor in the ongoing conflict. He did not foresee a resolution to the conflict until Palestinian statehood was achieved, as the continuance of the current situation would only lead to a lack of resolution and increased international pressure.

At the end of the event guests were able to ask the ambassador their questions, and gain further insight into his predictions for the future. Fundamentally, Ambassador Afif maintained the idea that peace in the Middle East is a possibility and a desired outcome for all.

Meet Our Team at the SDWAC Office

Office Staff

Joe Stewart



Joe Stewart has been interning with the World Affairs Council since May, 2007. Joe is originally from Paso Robles but loves San Diego and hopes to stay as long as he can. He is a senior at the University of San Diego studying International Relations with minors in Spanish and Business Administration. His area of interest is Latin American politics. Joe spent his fall semester studying in Madrid, Spain and speaks fluent Spanish. He loves to travel and Joe has had the opportunity to visit Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand.

Jessica Hempstead



Jessica Hempstead has been working as an intern for the World Affairs Council since April, 2007. She Received her Bachelors Degree in International Studies from the University of California, San Diego in 2006. During her time at UCSD Jessica studied abroad in Bologna, Italy, as well as working in Sicily for a Summer. She has traveled to Cuba, Tunisia, and much of western and eastern Europe. She hopes to attend law school in the fall of 2008 and to pursue a career in international human rights law. She is originally from Palo Alto, CA.

Young Professionals Program

Max Robinson



Max is fascinated by world politics, economics, and culture. After graduating from high school on the Big Island of Hawaii, he went on to study international relations at the University of California, San Diego. During his undergraduate years, he studied abroad in Spain, did an internship with the Department of State in France, and spent a semester working at an international relations think tank in Washington, DC. Currently, Max is using his education and travel experience to teach Social Studies and History at The Bishop's School in La Jolla. In his free time, he enjoys swimming, running, and ballroom dancing.

June Ambassadorial Roundtable: Africa Today

For our June Ambassadorial Roundtable, the San Diego World Affairs Council was fortunate enough to host two ambassadors for an African Summit. Ambassador Mapuranga from Zimbabwe, and Ambassador Ukec from the Sudan addressed the attendees after a lunch in the lovely Sunset Room at the Island Palms Resort.

With the harbor in the background, each ambassador took 20 minutes to detail the history of their country, and outline the influence that those histories have had on the cur-



rent situations in their respective nations.

Ambassador Mapuranga began

with a discussion of Zimbabwe's colonial history and recent independence, and highlighted the problems stemming from the attempts at land reform by the Zimbabwean and British governments.

Ambassador Ukec followed with a description of the current situation in Sudan, including the conflict in Darfur. He addressed the U.S. threat of economic sanctions, and proposed that such an act would undercut the governments ability to control the Darfur situation.

In all the luncheon was an interesting and informative event.

Recapping Past Events

Ambassador Dennis Ross

At the most recent event put on by the San Diego World Affairs Council, Ambassador Dennis Ross addressed a crowd of over 90 people at the La Jolla Shores Hotel. He discussed his recently released book, *STATECRAFT: And How to Restore America's Standing in the World*.

As the 'point man' in the negotiations between Israel and Palestine under both George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, Ambassador Ross has had extensive experience in the areas of negotiating and peacemaking. He presented the idea of good statecraft as one which "Marries objectives and means." His critique of the current management of the war in Iraq centered around the idea that the administration not only failed to match its objectives with its means, but also made "faith based assessments," assuming that everything would fall into place once the Hussein government was removed. This failure to understand the situation fully contributed to the current problems.

Ambassador Ross also discussed the idea of leverage in the international arena, highlighting the necessity of understanding not only one's own abilities and those of one's opponents but also of potential allies. Ambassador Ross concluded with the idea that in order to ensure international peace, states must use the tools of statecraft to work at using appropriate means and understanding the impact of the objectives they have.

Guest were able to ask Ambassador Ross their questions, allowing him to shed further light on some aspects of his book and his work as a negotiator.



Consul General Ehud Danoch

Israeli Consul General Ehud Danoch addressed the audience at an April 17th luncheon at the La Jolla Shores Hotel. The scenic views from the hotel, formerly the Sealodge, mirrored the great event. Consul General Danoch discussed the current situation in the Middle East, and in Israel in particular. He highlighted the complicated situation in which Israel finds itself, seeking to at once protect its own security and to also work toward peace with its neighbors.

In the second event in as many months to discuss the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, guests were able to hear more about the goals Israel had and the predicaments it faced.

A lively debate between Consul General Danoch and the members followed the speech, allowing people to express their opinions and have some of their questions answered by the Consul General.



Chilean Ambassador Fernandez

On March 15th, the San Diego World Affairs Council hosted Chilean Ambassador Mariano Fernandez for a roundtable discussion at Tom Ham's Light House Restaurant.



On March 15th, the San Diego World Affairs Council hosted Chilean Ambassador Mariano Fernandez for a roundtable discussion at Tom Ham's Light House Restaurant.

Ambassador Mariano's address featured an insightful overview of the current state of political-economy in Chile. He emphasized regional Latin-American relations, saying that intra-Latin American lines of trade and policy were essential.

Ambassador Mariano made firm the need for a future commitment to U.S. foreign investment in Chile, which lags considerably behind the top foreign investors, and that they need to encourage American capitalists' involvement in Chile.

The well-attended luncheon included the Consul General and several Honorary Consuls of Chile.

Deputy Consul General Moore

The South African Deputy Consul General Alan Moore spoke to the World Affairs Council on May 10th. In an intimate setting, Mr. Moore shared information about south Africa's current economic and political status, as well as its history and path to development.

Economically, South Africa remains a major player at the international level. From producing all of the H3 Hummers designed to be driven on the left side of the road, to producing the least expensive energy, South Africa's contributions to the global economy are significant.

In the political arena, South Africa has been working to overcome its apartheid past and become a functioning democracy. Deputy Consul Moore discussed the government's attempts to empower the formerly disenfranchised



black population, and to work for peace at the global level. As participants in the Non-Proliferation Treaty they have stepped up to the challenge of creating a positive national image.

Mr. Moore presented the World Affairs Council with an official Presidential Medallion depicting Nelson Mandela and the date of his inauguration.

San Diego World Affairs Council Young Professionals

The World Affairs Council has kicked off its Young Professionals program. The first meeting of the Young Professionals Group took place on June 21st at Jack's in La Jolla. Over drinks the attendees discussed travel and culture, global politics, and more. The next meeting will take place at Wine Steals on July 11th.

This new group presents an exciting opportunity to meet other young people interested in politics, economics, business, etc.

For more information, or to sign up for the meetup group, go to <http://businessnetwork.meetup.com/339/>

Sponsor-A-Student

The San Diego World Affairs Council has kicked off its Sponsor-A-Student program as part of our efforts to involve the San Diego college student population in the SDWAC. Members can sponsor a place at our events, and we will work with UCSD, SDSU, USD and other universities to select bright, interested students to take those places. This will allow capable students who would not otherwise be able to afford it to attend our events and contribute their voices to these discussions. Please consider sponsoring an individual student or a student table for upcoming SDWAC events.

DONATIONS

SDWAC needs your support to better serve our community. We rely on member contributions to continue to offer our programs. Remember that it is a tax write-off! The Council is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Please contact Dr. von Ber or Brandon Scott for details on how to make your contribution. Any financial or material contributions are greatly appreciated!

The COMMUNIQUÉ

For questions or concerns regarding the SDWAC COMMUNIQUÉ, please contact Jessica Hempstead at (619) 325-8200 or at jessica@sdwac.com.

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