



June 2007

dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



**President Thabo Mbeki with President Joseph Kabila
of the DRC during the latter's official state visit
to South Africa**

DEAR COLLEAGUES

Welcome to the June DFA Now.

THIS MONTH THE INTERNATIONAL relations arena was dominated by the highly anticipated G8 Summit which was held in Germany. President Thabo Mbeki led the South Africa delegation of Ministers, including our Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. The DFA Now brings you the report of the proceedings at this Summit. In addition, we have the following for you: government's development indicators mid-term review, the question of Palestine, our mission in pictures (Ankara), and information on the DFA being one of the top employers of choice in South Africa.

Please remember that in order to meet the deadline in the future and release the DFA Now on good time please assist us by meeting the deadline for the submission of articles. Please assist us by forwarding your letters and articles to the Editor before the deadline. Thanking to all contributors who have heeded this request.

Happy reading!

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Creative Corner

THE INSATIABLE DEMON

Dedicated to ALL who are infected (with) and/or are affected by HIV/AIDS

*Sa fela sa geso setshaba re lebeletse!
Angen' amanz' endlini silibele kupuca!
Hu lovhiwa a di sala o tswa vhana naa?
Mbewu yi tswa hi kala hi gobela ke?
Inderdaad, ons neem die einde van ons volk waar!*

*What is this deadly foe?
That strikes with military precision
That renders a cobra's lethal fang barren
That sows widows, widowers and orphans with impunity
Exhibiting scant regard for age, race, religion or sex.*

*The letters number a pathetic four.
Inducing apathy, ridicule and scorn,
Feeding on ignorance and negligence,
Pouncing when myopia reigns,*

*Leaving a trail of doom and gloom.
Hiroshima was a ludicrous comedy;
The holocaust barely scratched the surface;
Apartheid resembled a crumbling scarecrow;
Chemical weapons are a breath of fresh air;
All dwarfed by the demon's lightening and global bloom.*

*Scientific heads need to clash constructively;
The midnight oil burn ceaselessly;
Prayers be chanted relentlessly;
Hope and optimism be resuscitated eternally;
Until the enemy's mortality is permanently exposed.*

**By: Mvuyo Mhangwane * Assisted by:
Sally Sebeke, Phumla Songca, Richard Khumalo**

G8 Heiligendamm Summit, 6 to 8 June 2007



President Mr Thabo Mbeki with Leaders of the +5 Outreach Partners at the G8 Summit, Heiligendamm, Germany. From left to right, Indian President Mr Manmohan Singh, Brazilian President Mr Lula da Silva, Mexican President Mr Felipe Calderon-Hinojosa and Chinese President Mr Hu Jintao

“
*Growth and
 Responsibility in Africa,
 focusing on Good
 Governance, Sustainable
 Investment, Peace and
 Security and the Fight
 against HIV and
 AIDS*
 ”

BACKGROUND

Germany took over the Chair of the Group of Eight on 1 January 2007, along with the Presidency of the European Union. The 2007 G8 Summit took place during the period of Germany's dual regional and leading industrial democracies' leadership. Germany will hand over the G8 Presidency for 2008 on 31 December to Japan.

The central theme for the Group of Eight's 2007 engagement has been "Growth and Responsibility in the Global Economy with a focus on Investment, Innovation and Sustainability and Growth and Responsibility in Africa, focusing on Good Governance, Sustainable Investment, Peace and Security and the fight against HIV and AIDS."

SOUTH AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION AT THE G8 SUMMIT

President Mbeki attended this year's Summit in Germany and was supported by Ministers Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and M Mphahlele, Advocate Mojanku Gumbi, Ambassador Chikane, Ambassador Nene and

Ambassador Mokou.

In the context of North-South Co-operation, South Africa has been able to consolidate its partnership with the Group of Eight through engagement and dialogue – both within the +5 Outreach Group (+5 = Mexico, India, China, Brazil and South Africa) and the African Group (African Group = current President of the African Union, Chair of NEPAD, Chair of the African Commission, South Africa, Senegal, Algeria, Nigeria and Egypt).

CORE AGENDA ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Challenges of the Heiligendamm Summit were primarily around the need for intra-group consensus on Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, and provision of political impetus for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round Negotiations. Regarding international political challenges, special attention was focused on Sudan/Darfur, highlighted through a special G8 Statement. Further attention was focused

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President Thabo Mbeki engaging with leaders of the G8, Heiligendamm, Germany

on the Middle East, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Zimbabwe. The way forward regarding Afghanistan will be followed up through a special conference later this year.

RESULTS OF THE G8 2007 SUMMIT ENGAGEMENT

The agenda of the +5 Partners' engagement with the German G8 Chair focused in 2007 on the key areas in which the G8 is explicitly seeking to integrate these emerging economies into global governance, namely that of *energy, climate change, investment, and intellectual property rights*.

To deepen the engagement on the set core global economic governance issues, at the initiative of Germany as the 2007 Chair, it was agreed between the Group of Eight and the +5 Outreach Partners to form a high-level follow-up dialogue to take forward the 2007 G8 agenda in the form of the Heiligendamm Process Dialogue, the secretariat of which would be provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The said Heiligendamm Process has a 2 year duration and is due to be launched in the 3rd quarter of this year.

With regard to climate change, the G8

partners eventually accepted that the only legitimate forum for negotiating further action is and remains the United Nations. It was further agreed by the G8 that further action on climate change should be based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The G8 specified agenda for outreach with the +5 Outreach Partners, however, fell short of addressing key developmental areas such as progress on *financing for development, migration and South-South co-operation*. To this end, the +5 Outreach Partners submitted their mentioned joint position paper covering those areas where the specified G8 Outreach agenda was considered by the +5 as lacking.

With respect to Africa-G8 interactions, in the context of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF), progress has been sidetracked by differing positions between African countries and donor countries constituting the APF, particularly focusing on debate and discussion on institutional interaction, rather than the implementation of previous G8-Africa commitments. Support for the NEPAD Infrastructure Consortium for Af-

rica (ICA) and Investment Climate Facility (ICF) remain investment opportunities for both African Capital as well as Development Partners' Capital.

G8 commitments made through the Africa Action Plan of Kananaskis (2002) and the Gleneagles Commitments (2005) were re-iterated. An additional \$ 60 billion was pledged to combat HIV and AIDS. The forthcoming October 2007 Africa Partnership Forum meeting, however, would give the Group of Eight, fellow OECD member-states and the African Partners an opportunity to revisit this engagement process whereby positive results from the commitments made and reiterated on in Heiligendamm, could be attained.

G8 2008

It is expected that the Group of Eight engagement with the +5 Outreach Partners and Africa, will continue in 2008 under the leadership of Japan. It is expected that the themes to be chosen by Japan as Chair, will include a continued focus on Energy, Climate Change and African Development.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN Graduate Recruiters Association (SAGRA) hosted the First Annual Magnet Awards at the KPMG head offices in Johannesburg on 27 January 2005. Graduate recruiters from across the country attended this much anticipated event.

Magnet Communications presented the results of the first ever Graduate Survey conducted in South Africa. This presentation was followed by an award ceremony for the Top Graduate Recruiters in the country.

The awards were allocated according to student opinion gathered via the Graduate survey and went to the top graduate recruiters in the science and engineering, law, commerce and humanities sectors. The top three graduate recruiters

DFA is again one of the top employers of choice

overall were also awarded.

The Department of Foreign Affairs was rated number 5 for recruiting 17% of the graduates after SABC, SAA, BMW (SA) and Coca Cola. Effectively meaning that the department has done it again this year.

It was ranked fifth among the top ranked potential employers for humanities by students nationwide studying commerce, science, engineering and law. The results were published in a weekend supplement of the Independent Newspapers.

Magnet Communications' core

business consists of quantitative surveys on opinions of students and young professionals. This year over 12 000 participated in the graduate survey.

By Mthembeni Khumalo Public Diplomacy - Media Research, Analysis and Speechwriting

THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

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Awareness must be created on the African continent of the potentially serious negative consequences of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the international community.”

THE UNITED NATIONS Africa meeting on the Question of Palestine was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the 9 and 10 May 2007 in Pretoria in co-operation with the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable rights of the Palestinian People. Participants in the Meeting included internationally renowned experts, including Israelis and Palestinians, representatives of United Nations Members and Observers, parliamentarians, representatives of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, representatives of civil society and the media. The theme of the Meeting was “African solidarity with the Palestinian people for the achievement of its inalienable rights”.

The objective of the Meeting, taking place against the background of renewed regional and international efforts at restarting the Israeli-Palestinian political process, was to encourage broad international action, especially by African States, in support of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and in support of achieving a solution to the conflict based on an internationally endorsed vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within pre-1967 borders.

The keynote speech was given by Dr Essop Pahad, Minister in the Office of the President. The UN Africa meeting on the Question of Palestine emphasised the need for solidarity of the people of Africa with the struggle of the Palestinian people for self determination and an independent Palestinian state.

In his opening address to the Conference, Minister in the Presidency, Dr Essop Pahad, emphasised the following: the international community needs to be mobilised in support of and in solidarity with the Palestinians in their struggle for an independent state. Awareness must be created on the African continent of the potentially serious negative consequences of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the international community. African solidarity with the Palestinian people and the encouragement of greater sub-Saharan African involvement is important at a time when this support appears to be declining and some African delegations are no longer supporting Palestine at the UN. The Palestinian issue must form part of the African Union (AU) and South African Development Community (SADC) agendas. There must be an end to the Israel, US and EU imposed sanctions against the Palestinian government.

In his closing address to the UN African Meeting on the Question of Palestine, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aziz Pahad, identified the following as the immediate tasks of the South African Government: recognition of Palestinian Government of Unity. The South African Government looks forward to visits to South Africa and Africa of the President, the Prime Minister, other Ministers and officials of the government of National Unity. There was a need to ensure that all sanctions against the Palestinian National Authority are removed. There was a need to ensure that Israel complied with UN Resolutions and the judgment of the International Court of

Justice on the Wall. The international community needed to work towards an unconditional, constructive and creative Israeli response to the Arab initiative.

The participants expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the United Nations African Meeting on the Question of Palestine and for the assistance and support extended to the Committee and the United Nations Secretariat in its preparation

The United Nations Public Forum in support of Israeli-Palestinian peace was held on 11 May 2007 in Pretoria. The public Forum emphasised the important role that international civil society, in particular African civil society, had to play in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Public Forum stressed the urgent need for Governments, intergovernmental organizations and peace advocates to press for the immediate resumption of the political dialogue between the Israelis and Palestinians, and called for renewed efforts to keep that dialogue focused on ending the occupation and alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people.

The day-long Forum, convened by the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, featured academics, activists, writers, former-Government negotiators and civil society experts on the situation in the Middle East.

By Levant II Desk

CATEGORIES OF DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS WITH SOME HIGHLIGHTS

THE 72 DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS ARE GROUPED UNDER TEN BROAD THEMES, LISTED BELOW WITH HIGHLIGHTS:

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

- o The economy has been growing continuous for eight years – faster than the country's population - and we are likely to meet ASGISA targets
- o Capital investment is increasing, and is creating a platform for future growth. Our target is 25% of GDP and we are now at 19% compared to 15% in 2000
- o Black participation in the economy has improved, but it is still far from optimal

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

- o In the two years to September 2006 over a million new jobs were created.
- o Both broad and narrow definitions of employment have come down since 2003 – if the pace is sustained we should meet the target of halving unemployment by 2014 from what it was in 2004

POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

- o Poverty has been reduced, especially after 2000
 - In real terms, the income of the poorest has improved
 - The number of people in LSMs 1-3 has decreased and those in higher LSMs have increased
 - Percentage of population living under R3 000 pa (constant Rand for the year 2000) decreased from 50% to 43%
 - Nearly 12 million people now receive social grants
- o However the rate of income increase for the poor has not matched that of the better off, so income inequality has not decreased.
- o Different measures of Life Expectancy show it to have been falling since 2000, seemingly linked to HIV and Aids

HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY ASSETS

- o Since 1994, 2,3 million subsidised houses have been completed or are in progress. The number of households has increased even more due to population growth and a shift to smaller households
- o 85% of households have access to water at the RDP standard or above compared with 61% in 1994
- o 71% of households have access to sanitation; was 50% in 1994



- o 80% of households have access to electricity; 4,2 million households have received electricity connections since 1994
- o The completion of over 73,000 land restitution claims brings that process near completion. Progress in land redistribution has been slow.

HEALTH

- o Amongst under-fives there is less malnutrition and immunisation has reached 90%
- o Trends in infant and child mortality are unclear –MRC and Health Systems Trust data point to an increase whilst StatsSA and ASSA show a decrease.
- o The increase in HIV prevalence has slowed down after its rapid growth in the 1990s
- o There has been a rapid increase in TB Cases since 2001



EDUCATION

- o Since the 1990s the overall balance of boys and girls amongst the 12,3 million school learners has approached parity
- o The matric pass rate has increased to a higher level



since 2000. Though the number of matriculants with higher grade maths passes has increased since 2001, it is still low.

- o Adult literacy has increased between 1995 and 2005

SOCIAL COHESION

- o Membership of voluntary civil society organisations is relatively high compared with similar countries
- o Voter participation has been relatively high, though slightly declining, in the three national elections since 1994. Turnout in local elections has, in line with international trends, been lower than national turnout.
- o The percentage of women in the national and provincial legislatures increased from 25,4 per cent in 1994 to 32,5 per cent in 2004.
- o Confidence in the country's future is buoyant. Though subject to electoral cycles, the current trend is above that of previous cycles. Pride in being South African has been at a particularly high level since 2004
- o The proportion of people who think race relations are improving was around 60% in 2006 – compared with around 40% in 2000

CRIME

- o Although it is still at a high level, the incidence of crime is generally decreasing
- o Trends in contact crime – interpersonal violence – have been slowly decreasing, in some instances marginally and others more substantially, but are still cause for concern.
- o Case backlog in the courts has been increasing – in response there has been greater emphasis on diversion
- o The prison population, after being reduced by remission programme in 2005, is growing again
- o Despite increasing numbers of cars, the accident rate is slowly coming down. New research shows that most accidents are alcohol-related



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- o Africa's economic performance has been improving since 2002, at over five per cent a year since 2005
- o Tourism has grown rapidly since 1994 and continues to do so, with a 14,5 percent increase in arrivals in 2006 compared with 2005. It has had a significant impact on employment creation.
- o Reflecting our growing relations with other countries some 25 new SA missions have been established since 2001. 42 out of 118 missions are in Africa.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- o Our tax administration system has become much more effective and the number of tax payers has more than doubled since 1996
- o Whilst the number of qualified audits of national departments has increased, they have become less frequent in provincial and municipal government
- o Whilst Transparency International finds perceptions of corruption in South Africa increasing, the World Bank finds that South Africa compares well with other countries in private firms' perceptions of corruption in their dealing with public institutions
- o South Africa is ranked amongst the top six countries with regard to the openness and transparency of budgetary processes.

The release, for the first time, of a set of development indicators by government, reflects progress in establishing a government-wide monitoring and evaluation system. This set of key development indicators provides pointers to the evolution of our society up to the middle of this government's term, two-and-half years after the April 2004 elections. In addition to promoting effective planning and implementation, the publication of the indicators is intended as a contribution to the public discourse on the progress South Africa is making towards the ideals inscribed in the Constitution.

Did you know?

THE ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL



Mr Martin Vosloo, an AIDS activist a guest speaker during the Annual Candlelight Memorial event.



find easy to relate to. It is known that people are not comfortable in talking to professionals like nurses because they only consult them when they are really sick, rather thus they would talk to family members or peers. Peers are easy to relate to since the most important tool in stopping HIV is knowledge and as peer educators we empower our peer colleagues whom we know will pass the information to other peers and also family members. By doing so the circle of empowerment goes on and the information is shared and the nation will be saved. They are on the same level of understanding and have shared experiences. For the Department peer education is not limited to only HIV/AIDS issues but any social issue that can affect an employee and hinder his/her work process.

REMEMBER:

The most important tool in stopping HIV is knowledge, and peer educators are here to empower colleagues whom they know will pass the information to other peers and also family members. By doing so the circle of empowerment goes on and information is shared to the advantage of all. This information circle is the only way we can stem the tide of this virus. If all participate, thousands of lives would be saved. Thus indeed Knowledge is Power.

Colleagues, it is advisable to disclose your status when you are ready. Please never disclose in a spur of the moment because the world is too big for the consequences.

It is advisable also to talk to a counsellor at EWC or in your community about disclosure.

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs with the assistance of its Employee Wellness Centre (EWC) participated in the annual Candle Light Memorial that was held at Tulbagh Park on 21 May 2007. The main purpose of this departmental event was to raise awareness and educate employees on HIV/AIDS, and also to remember the loved ones lost to the pandemic. The annual Candlelight Memorial is one of the largest and oldest grassroots mobilization campaigns for HIV/AIDS awareness programs of the Global Health Council. This event occurs on the third Sunday of every May annually. The theme for 2007 was 'Leading the way to a World without HIV and AIDS'.

The Department's EWC showed its solidarity by organising the event to create awareness within the Department about HIV and Aids, and to honour the employees who lost their loved ones to the pandemic. Mr Martin Vosloo was invited as a guest speaker. He was diagnosed with the virus in May 1990, seventeen years ago and he is still living an active life, healthy and alive with possibilities. Mr Vosloo is an AIDS activist who is determined to fight the pandemic by motivating workers, learners and congregations as well as educating them on HIV related issues. He shared his personal experience of living with HIV/AIDS and talked about the positive and negative

aspects regarding living with the virus not forgetting the myths that goes with the disease.

PEER EDUCATION

The EWC also used the opportunity to introduce its peer educators to fellow colleagues. The Department embarked on the process of recruiting and training the peer educators in 2006 with the understanding that they will disseminate information about HIV/AIDS. Peer education is one of the most widely used strategies to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, thus the Department found it appropriate to have peer educators to distribute and share information about HIV/AIDS and also give support to the infected and affected. The peer educators educate, support, motivate and assist peers (in this regard DFA colleagues) to make appropriate decisions. Peer educators are not experts or professional counsellors but peers whom one can

QUESTION

When an HIV positive woman with a non-detectable HI virus and her CD4 count is high, engages in unprotected sex with an HIV negative man will she infect her partner or not? Please forward your answer and more question to malepanet@foreign.gov.za.

Our mission in pictures (Ankara) Freedom Day celebrations



Freedom Day celebrations in Ankara, Turkey with Ambassador Sobizana Mngqikana joining South African artists on stage. Ambassador Mngqikana, an accomplished jazz musician is known as the "singing Ambassador" in diplomatic circles. The evening reception was hosted on 26 April 2007 at the Hilton hotel in Ankara. Guests danced until late evening to the music of Pinise Saul and Lucky Ranku

ANNUAL WINTER GAMES 2007



DFA's athletes

Fun Run and Walk, Mountain Biking, Pool, Angling, Darts, Tennis, Soccer, Netball, Golf, Bowls, Jukskei, Volleyball, Squash, Action Cricket, Aerobics and Combat Shooting

The following Intelligence Departments have indicated their interest in taking part in the 2007 Winter Games:

- National Intelligence Agency/ South African Secret Service
- South African Police Service
- South African Defense Force
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Financial Intelligence Centre
- Independent Complaints Directorate
- National Prosecuting Authority

We would like to extend our invitation particularly to those who have never played sport, who have been postponing it, who have forgotten how to play, as well as those who just do not have the time to play. The flesh may be weak but if the spirit is willing...come on! This one is not going to be a test of fitness & ability – not yet. It is also not a talent search but an opportunity for you to bring out that child in you...just this once! Check yourself out!

The organizers of the Winter Games in the department are as follows:

Netball: Ms Lizzy Mashaba & Ms Nkele Chidi. **Soccer:** Mr Xolani Khumalo & Ernest Mahalefa. **Other sporting codes:** Ms Sibongile Mabasa

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE again! For a day the buzz words at the NIA/SASS will be sports and fun. The annual winter games are here again on the 27 July 2007 and will culminate with a day of FUNNN, MUSSSSIC and SPORTSSSSS.

The Annual Winter Games, which will take place between Intelligence Departments, is this year scheduled for Friday, 27 July. The event normally takes place on the sport grounds of NIA/SASS.

Although this event is the joined responsibility of all Departments taking part to organize, the Sport Coordinators of NIA/SASS will lead the planning and preparations.

During this event about 800 participants are expected to partake in various sporting codes. Sport in general within the department is struggling for an existence, and therefore we try our best to attract and involve as many officials as possible for various sporting activities.

This is the only event during the year where members of different Intelligence Departments get together and socialize on and off the sport field. This is important for members of different Departments to also know their fellow Intelligence officers and build relations.

The following are the sporting codes that are available for the officials to participate in:

Snooker, Table Tennis, Tennis,

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS



President Thabo Mbeki hosting Prime Minister Guillaume Soro of Cote d' Ivoire, in Cape Town

June brings back sad memories of those fallen heroes and heroines who 31 years ago on June 16, 1976 sacrificed their lives so that South Africa could be free today. The National Youth Commission and the country at large, dipped their banners in a remembrance day ceremony and paid tribute to the youth who perished. In honouring these young people, government and the peoples of our Republic confirmed the point that, they indeed, did not die in vain.

We kickstarted the month with a visit to Germany by Ministers Dlamini Zuma and Mandisi Mpahlwa ahead of the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm. President Thabo Mbeki led the South African contingent within the context of South Africa's priority to strengthen relations with the G- 8 with a view to consolidation of the African developmental agenda. The Summit was held under the German Presidency of Dr Angela Merkel with the theme : Growth and Responsibility – with a focus on key global challenges : the world economy and Africa's economic, political and social development. President Mbeki also held bilateral consultations with amongst others, Prime Minister of Italy, Mr. Romano Prodi, Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Stephen Harper,

the German Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel and the Indian Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh. Consultations were also held with UN Secretary General, Ban Ki- Moon, Chinese President Hu Jintao and the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi ahead of the Plus Five Outreach Partners. The focus of the bilaterals was the situation on the African continent, with regards to peace and security, the United Nations, Trade and NEPAD.

Upon return to our shores, Pres. Mbeki hosted President Joseph Kabila

of the Democratic Republic of Congo for a State Visit. Issues on the Agenda included the status of bilateral, political and economic relations between both countries, including the future of sustained co-operation. South Africa's assistance to the DRC is informed by its vision of an "African Renaissance" of peace, stability and security and sustained renewal, including growth and socio- economic development. South Africa assisted the DRC in organising its first democratic elections on 30 July 2006 with the second round following 29 October 2006. Given the magnitude of the task the DRC is seized with in its post – conflict reconstruction, SA continues to support the DRC in critical areas such as the security sector reform, capacity building in governance structures by sharing its own experiences in dealing with these matters.

Minister Dlamini Zuma also visited Slovakia and signed a Co-operation Agreement aimed at regulating interaction between Slovakia and South Africa. Both South Africa and Slovakia serve in the United Nations Security Council as non – permanent members. Minister Dlamini Zuma also presented a paper on " the vision of the Republic of South Africa on the Future of the African Continent". Both countries agreed on the need to increase co-operation between the two in various fields such as human resources development and encouraged their private sectors to explore areas of co-operation in fields such as the automotive sector, textiles and services.



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during an AU Meeting on Comoros in Cape Town



Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma visiting Slovakia

Issues around progress on the election time – table and disarmament were also discussed.

Upon hearing of the news of the death of Mrs Vilma Espin Guillois, wife and partner to Acting President Raul Castro of Cuba, President and Mrs. Mbeki on behalf of the country extended our message of condolences to the Cuban people. “ President Mbeki said that Madame Guillois will be remembered as a heroine of the struggle for liberation and an outstanding combatant of the Rebel Army who worked tirelessly for Cuba’s freedom”.

A word of congratulations went to Gordon Brown, on his appointment as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. South Africa is quite convinced that Prime Minister Brown will build on the UK’s existing constructive engagement in Africa, not only on a bilateral level, but also in a multilateral context.

The month concluded with President Mbeki supported by Ministers Dlamini Zuma and Geraldine Fraser - Moleketi departing our shores for the Golden city of Accra, in Ghana for the AU Summit as well as the African Peer Review Mechanism where South Africa’s report was to be tabled. The theme for this Summit was “The Grand Debate” on the critical issue of the political and economic integration of the continent. Earlier in May 2007, a Retreat of the AU Executive Council of Ministers meeting in Zimbalu, KwaZulu – Natal, made recommendations to be tabled in Accra on how to take this matter forward. The Launch of the Pan African Infrastructure Fund during the Summit will be a major highlight. The Fund will be used to finance continental projects of the AU under NEPAD. Indeed, with President Mbeki celebrating his 65th birthday on the 18th June 2007, the month proved once more that South Africa was indeed on a right course in matters of international relations.

Prepared by the Media Liaison Directorate Public Diplomacy

Following the DRC State Visit, Minister Dlamini Zuma convened an AU Meeting on Comoros in Cape Town within the context of the AU’s priority to consolidate peace and national reconciliation in the Comoros. Later in the month, the Regional Meeting on the Comoros took place in Moroni informed by the decisions of the earlier Cape Town meeting. The Ministerial Mission reiterated the need to implement decisions taken in the Cape Town meeting aimed at constituting the appropriate framework for a lasting solution to the crisis in Comoros. The Ministerial Mission had demanded that the authorities of Anjouan hold free and fair Presidential elections in compliance with the AU security plan.

Our commitment to peace and stability saw Deputy Minister Aziz Pahad participate in the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Zone for Peace and Co-operation in the South Atlantic in Angola. South Africa continues to be committed to a world without weapons of mass destruction and respect for non-proliferation treaties. South Africa was the last member to join the Zone in 1994, post its own liberation.

The month of June also witnessed South Africa’s invaluable contribution to international peace and security as members of the UNSC. A visit by the UNSC to a number of African countries on the continent in support of the peace processes evolving saw South Africa being honoured as the co-leader of this mission. Countries visited included the AU Headquarters in Addis

Ababa, Sudan, Ghana as well as the DRC. In Addis, the UNSC and the AU Peace and Security Council agreed on a commitment to deepen co-operation with each other.

With respect to Cote d’Ivoire, President Mbeki hosted Prime Minister Guillaume Sorro in Cape Town for bilateral discussions. In a media briefing when asked about the purpose of his visit, Prime Minister Sorro said that “ I came here to greet President Mbeki as an elder; As you know, he(President Mbeki) has long been involved in the process to find peace in Cote d’Ivoire. I came to brief him on developments in the peace process”. In another related development, the UNSC consequent to a Presidential statement in March this year considered the extension of the UN Mission in Cote d’Ivoire until December 2007.



The new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Gordon Brown.

Where were you..?

