



September 2006

dfa **Now**

Your voice to be heard



Heritage Day and Heritage Month 2006

“Celebrating Our Living Heritage”

Dear Colleagues, September is Heritage Month and in joining the celebrations nationally and abroad we should all take time to familiarise ourselves with the country's national symbols. These are the South African Flag, Coat of Arms, Blue Crane (national bird), Springbuck (national animal), Real Yellowwood (national tree), King Protea (national flower), and Galjoen (national fish).

This year's theme is "Celebrating our Music, our Heritage". The *dfa Now* would like to take this opportunity to encourage all colleagues to participate in Heritage Month activities.

In this issue we cover the following: message from the DG; a debate on nuclear disarmament (to be carried on in the September and October issues of *dfa Now*); Heritage Day/Month celebrations; GEPF advice; Branch: FSI & HR name change; Secretaries Day; Poetry and Where were you – pictures of staff.

Please note that this newsletter is for you, therefore we need your views/opinion on it. Please forward your letters and articles to the Editor before the deadline.

Enjoy it!

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the DFA or the editors. The deadline for contributions is 11 October 2006. Contributions may be sent to cbe300 or mokhetheap@foreign.gov.za

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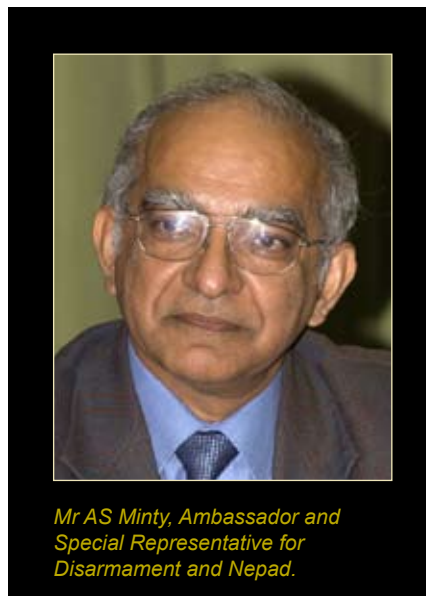
From the DG's desk

MISSIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DESKS at Head Office are herewith informed that the Director-General has decided, for reasons of coherence, co-ordination and strategic policy implementation, that Mr AS Minty, Deputy Director General, will serve as Ambassador and Special Representative for Disarmament and Nepad.

In terms of these latest arrangements, the officials within the Business Units of the Branch: Multilateral, will continue to provide support to Mr Minty with respect to all issues under the Directorate: Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control as well as global developments on Terrorism.

Similarly the officials within the Business Units of the Branch: Africa Multilateral will continue to provide support to Mr Minty with respect to all issues related to NEPAD.

It will be appreciated if Missions



and geographical desks could copy all communication related to the above issues within their respective areas of responsibility, for "information/action" as per the following allocations:

Mr AS Minty
Deputy Director General
Route: lzz000
Ms CJ Peens
Senior Secretary
Route: lzz001
Mr P Makwarela
Deputy Director: FS (Disarmament)
Route:lzz004
Ms T Grobbelaar
Deputy Director:FS
Route: lzz002
Vacant
Deputy Director: FS (Nepad)
Vacant
Assistant Director:FS

Kindly note that all communications forwarded to the above officials should also be marked for the "attention" of the relevant desk official within the Directorate: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation and Nepad.

Your co-operation and assistance on the matter are appreciated. 📧

The Nuclear Disarmament Debate



Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control (DNPAC) Overview of SA's DNPAC Policy

AFTER ITS ASSUMPTION of political power as the ruling party in South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) was instrumental in leading the country from May 1994 to committing itself to a DNPAC policy covering all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and conventional weapons.

This commitment was a transposition of the ANC policy eschewing reliance in security doctrines, on WMD and conventional weapons deterrence. The other prominent factors in the architecture of the new government's DNPAC policy are the ANC's principled positions against the use of force in the conduct of international relations, as well as the importance it attaches to multilaterally agreed solutions to problems of international peace and security.

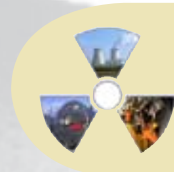
In conducting its international relations this new DNPAC policy forms an integral part of the democratic government's parameters in pursuit of democratic and effective global governance on issues of international peace and security. It also determines the positions

taken by the democratic government in, for example, the UN General Assembly 1st Committee; UN Disarmament Commission; International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO); Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); Conference on Disarmament (CD) and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

At a functional level the primary goal of the democratic government's DNPAC policy is to ensure that South Africa adheres to all its multilateral treaty obligations. This in turn projects and helps in ensuring that South Africa is a responsible producer, possessor and trader of

defence related products and advanced technologies in the nuclear, biological, chemical and conventional weapons fields. South Africa in so doing promotes the benefits, which DNPAC hold for international peace and security.

The DNPAC policy of the democratic government recognises the United Nations as the major mechanism for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control today. This approach contributes in reinforcing the position of the UN as the main collective security system charged with the maintenance of international peace: an objective it shares with the overall DNPAC objectives in general.



Initiatives in the DNPAC debate

(1) SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DISARMAMENT

THE UNITED NATIONS General Assembly held its tenth special session in New York from 23 May to 1 July 1978. This was the first special session devoted entirely to the question of disarmament. A second special session on disarmament took place in 1982 and the third in 1988.

The first special session commonly referred to as SSOD I continues to serve as the main point of reference

This section is intended to provide a brief historical account of what I consider some noteworthy initiatives in the nuclear disarmament debate. Focus will be on those initiatives outside the multilateral intergovernmental domain, which we tend to overlook, as well as some initiatives within the UN context such as the NPT Review process. This segment will therefore not be as inclusive and exhaustive as possible.

because it adopted a 69 paragraphs Programme of Action that provides a framework for the international community's disarmament efforts in the years ahead. This pragmatic Programme of Action and the concept of SSOD's was later subjected to a lot of criticism from some of the NWS and

those under the NATO security umbrella. This resulted in their tendency, more especially during the Cold War and immediately after it, to stall any calls for the convening of SSOD IV and to discard the SSOD I Programme of Action declaring it outdated and irrelevant.

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evant. In spite of this, the Non-Aligned Movement continues to call for the convening of SSOD IV and believes that the Programme of Action of SSOD I could lend the required impetus that would breathe in new life into the nuclear disarmament debate.

(2) 1982 REPORT ON "COMMON SECURITY"

A N INDEPENDENT COMMISSION on Disarmament and Security Issues was established in 1980 under the leadership of the Late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. This Commission composed of distinguished personalities in the area of DNPAC released a report in 1982 on "Common Security". This report readily acknowledged the colossal effects that nuclear weapons would have on human civilisation. Factors such as the global military expenditure that was growing at unprecedented level; the alarming national races to improve both WMD and conventional weapons; and to no less extent the awareness built by the Helsinki Conference on European Security Co-operation contributed in creating a conducive environment towards this acknowledgement. The only negative aspect in this setting was the ongoing Cold War. This might have contributed in limiting the Commission to only go as far as calling for more co-operation on nuclear disarmament.

(3) 1995 NPT REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE

AT THE 1995 NPT REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE the international community reiterated its belief that the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effect international control. The Conference affirmed that the NPT should be fulfilled with determination. In this regard nuclear weapons states (NWS) reaffirmed their commitment, as stated in article VI of the NPT, to pursue in good faith negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament.

The Review and Extension Confer-



ence also underscored the importance of the following measures in the full realisation and effective implementation of article VI, including the programme of action as reflected below:

- (a) The completion by the CD of negotiations on a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty no later than 1996. Pending the entry into force of a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, the nuclear-weapon States should exercise utmost restraint;
- (b) The immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, in accordance with the statement of the Special Co-ordinator of the Conference on Disarmament and the mandate contained therein;
- (c) The determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goals of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

The undertakings of NWS at the 1995 NPT Review Conference were instrumental at convincing the NNWS to agree to the proposal for the indefinite extension of the NPT. It was thought that through these undertakings the NWS would in earnest embark on a path to nuclear disarmament for a world free of nuclear weapons in our lifetime.

(4) CANBERRA COMMISSION ON THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS 12 AUGUST 1996

ON NOVEMBER 26, 1995, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating announced the formation of the Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

This initiative brought together a new and unique coalition of forces to accelerate and guide the process of nuclear weapons elimination. The group was given a mandate to "develop ideas and proposals for a concrete and realistic program to achieve a world totally free of nuclear weapons."

The report addresses the question of why a nuclear weapon-free world must be achieved and presents an analysis and rebuttal of arguments made supporting the continued existence of nuclear weapons, including their supposed deterrent value. The report then presents arguments to persuade the NWS that their security would be enhanced by the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The report examines ways to build on, expand, and accelerate U.S.-Russia bilateral agreements; such as START I and START II, and develop a framework that involves other nuclear weapons states in future phases of the disarmament process. It recommends methods to improve existing international agreements and control mechanisms regarding current weapons stockpiles and weapons-development programs, and also examines the steps necessary to achieve near-term agreements on fissile materials and non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

The report also includes a substantive and technical discussion of proposed treaty arrangements. Issues to be covered include verification and actions to address possible rearmament by current nuclear weapons states (or "break out,") theft of nuclear materials and terrorism. Finally, the report discusses issues of global and regional security arrangements during the transitional period prior to nuclear stockpile elimination. The report also reviews options for addressing collective security in a nuclear weapon-free world.

Unfortunately, the report does not suggest a time frame for the elimination of nuclear weapons. According to Commission members, this issue received considerable attention during meetings, but members were not able to agree on its inclusion in the final report.

Very little or nothing is heard of the report of the Canberra Commission nowadays. Soon after the defeat of

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Nuclear weapons inspection.

Document to make an unequivocal undertaking for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and supported that undertaking with a programme of thirteen steps for future action. The international community recognised the role that the New Agenda Coalition had played in reshaping nuclear disarmament efforts and in revitalising the NPT as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

(7) 1999 TOKYO FORUM FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

THE AUTHORS OF THIS REPORT highlight what they believed to be suspicion and rivalry between existing or potential nuclear-armed states. This according to them was not good for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. In order for the problem to be solved they stated it must be addressed both among major powers - the United States, Russia and China - and in those conflict-prone regions where nuclear confrontation is most likely - South Asia, the Middle East and Northeast Asia.

For them mending relations and reducing mistrust among major powers would significantly improve the conditions for progress on non-proliferation and disarmament in all three regions. This major area of focus in the report of the Tokyo Forum unfortunately constitutes its first major analytical weakness and so is its over emphasis on the reduction of nuclear arsenals and not their total elimination. This was premised on the belief by the authors of the report that reductions would pave the way to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons and the achievement of nuclear disarmament objectives.

There is also a lot of focus in this report on nuclear non-proliferation. Needless to say, all such skewed focus fall far too short of constituting a meaningful initiative to enhance nuclear disarmament and the pivotal role of nuclear weapons in the maintenance of international peace and security.

By Ambassador LM Gumbi.

*Follow the DEBATE – Look out for the 2nd half in the October issue of the dfa
Now! Comments are welcome.*

Keating's Labour Party in 1996 there was no clear outright indication of how actively the Government of Prime Minister John Howard will push the Commission's report in the face of the almost certain opposition by the NWS to its findings.

(5) NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) PROGRAM OF ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ON AUGUST 8, 1996, 29 non-aligned states released in Geneva a document titled "Program of Action for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons." It calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020. This according to the NAM would be the central focus of a framework for nuclear disarmament.

(6) NEW AGENDA COALITION (NAC)

FOLLOWING THE END OF THE COLD WAR frustrations were abound over the lack of real progress in nuclear disarmament. Two extreme positions retarded progress in the nuclear disarmament debate. One extreme composed of NWS was of the view that there is a need to rethink the

multilateral dimension of nuclear disarmament and the other extreme consisting India and Pakistan insisted on a "linkage" approach to nuclear disarmament. It is against this background that the NAC was launched on 9 June 1998 by means of the simultaneous release of a Joint Ministerial Declaration (South Africa, Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Slovenia and Sweden) on the need for a new agenda for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The NAC initiative is, among others, aimed at: capturing the middle ground between the two extremes of the nuclear disarmament debate; reinforcing the commitment to nuclear disarmament and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons; presenting a practical approach to nuclear disarmament; and lend impetus to the nuclear disarmament debate, which has largely been stalled since the end of the negotiations for the CTBT in 1996.

The NAC submits an annual resolution in the UNGA 1st Committee on nuclear disarmament and it also actively participates in the NPT review processes. After intensive negotiations and a near breakdown, through South Africa's efforts and its partners in the New Agenda Coalition, a significant step forward was made at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. States Parties agreed in a consensus Final

ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE CONVENED AT THIS SEAT of the Organisation of the Peoples of the World, representing the entire humanity and coming from all corners of the world. Our pilgrimage this year is tinged with sadness because we also pay homage to one of the most outstanding servants of the United Nations, a native son of Africa, Kofi Annan, whose term of office will soon come to an end.

The G77 and China as well as my own country, South Africa, sincerely thank the Secretary-General for the selfless and dedicated work he carried out during one of the most challenging periods of this Organisation.

In the midst of increasing poverty and underdevelopment during an era of unprecedented wealth accumulation and technological advances and, as the river that divides the rich and the poor zones of the metaphorical global village ever widens, the Secretary-General of the United Nations never lost focus on the imperatives of our time.

We thank him for never losing sight of the fact that poverty and underdevelopment remain the biggest threats to the progress that has been achieved, and that equality among the nations, big and small, is central to the survival, relevance and credibility of this global organisation.

Your Excellencies, we are only six years into the 21st Century. Those who populate the poorest part of the regions of the world – Africa – have boldly declared that it will be an African Century. It is a century in which billions of the citizens of the developing world and other poor and marginalised people, would want to transform into a Century for all Humanity.

If the wishes of the majority of the world could turn into reality, this would be a century free of wars, free of internecine conflicts, free of hunger, free of preventable disease, free of want, free of environmental degradation and free of greed and corruption. Indeed, we began the century with great hopes for a better, peaceful and humane world.

Together, we crafted comprehensive plans and bold declarations to defeat the scourge of poverty and underdevelopment.

Together, we committed ourselves, with what seemed like renewed vigour, to transform the UN to reflect the modern reality that is defined by free, sovereign and equal nations.

However, six years into the 21st century dispassionate observers would dare us to achieve our noble and lofty objectives, pointing to the terrorists' acts that welcomed us into the new century. They would emphasise the unilateralism that threatens to negate the democratic advances of the last decades of the 20th century, and draw attention to renewed conflicts and wars that seem to compete with the destructive fury of the conflicts of the last century.

They would remind us that for a decade and more, some of the developed nations have consistently refused to implement the outcomes and agreements of this world body that would help to alleviate the wretchedness of the poor.

Thus, Madam President, when you correctly urge us to implement a global partnership for development, we, the members of G77 and China, who represent the poor people of the world, understand you to be communicating a message that we should make real the common commitments we solemnly made at this supreme organisation of the nations of the world.

Yet, this common commitment for a global partnership for development cannot be transformed into reality when the rich and powerful insist on an unequal relationship with the poor.

A global partnership for development is impossible in the absence of a pact of mutual responsibility between the giver and the recipient. It is impossible when the rich demand the right, unilaterally, to set the agenda and conditions for the implementation of commonly agreed programmes.

We who represent the poor, know as a matter of fact that these billions of poor people are increasingly becoming impatient because every year they hear us adopt declaration after declaration, and yet nothing practical is done to assuage the hunger pains that keeps them awake at night. Only

Your Excellency, the President of the General Assembly, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, Your Excellency, the Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:



President Thabo Mbeki in his address to the United Nations

Address of the President of South Africa and the Chairperson of The G77 and China

61st Session of the United Nations

19 SEPTEMBER 2006, NEW YORK

few and selected agreements are implemented, with outcomes that are clearly insufficient to alleviate the excruciating pain of their children who cannot cry anymore because to do so is to invite more pain.

Those of us who were at the 14th Summit of the NAM in Havana heard this message very clearly, emanating from all the countries and organisations that spoke.

Those who are capable of listening should take note of what that great son of India and South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi, said on this matter: "The test of friendship is assistance in adversity,



United Nations General Assembly, 19 September 2006.

President of South Africa Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the United Nations General Assembly

and that too, unconditional assistance. Co-operation which needs consideration is a commercial contract and not friendship. Conditional co-operation is like adulterated cement which does not bind."

Precisely because of the absence of a global partnership for development, the Doha Development Round has almost collapsed. Indeed, because the rich invoked, without shouting it, the slogan of an over-confident European political party of the 1960's, and directed this uncaring declaration to the poor of today - "I'm alright Jack!" - we have not implemented the

Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, thus making it difficult for the majority of the developing countries, especially those in Africa, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and have reduced the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to an insignificant and perhaps forgotten piece of paper.

Part of the problem with this unequal relationship is the imposition of conditions on developing countries and the constant shifting of the poles whenever the poor adhere to each and every one of those conditions.

Among other things, we have recently seen an outbreak of great social instability across Europe and other reactions of the poor to their miserable conditions in different parts of the world, always putting into question the image of seemingly harmonious well-woven tapestries of diverse groups because, in good measure, we continue to fail to implement our own decisions of the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

Your Excellencies, those who coined the slogan: "I'm alright Jack!" were communicating, whether consciously or not, a message and an attitude that said - 'I don't care about my neighbour as long as I and my family eat well and sleep peacefully' and that 'it is not my responsibility to ensure that my poor neighbour also eats well and sleeps peacefully'.

Today the attitude among some of the rich also communicates the same message to the rest of the world that: 'I'm alright Jack!', even when they are acutely aware that many in their neighbourhood die of hunger, of preventable diseases and abject poverty. This happens also in a situation of the cruel irony where resources flow from

those who have little to those who have plenty.

Although the rich and the powerful know the miserable life circumstances of the poor and have solemnly committed themselves to the collective effort to reverse these conditions, their attitude and response resembles that of the Biblical Cain who, after killing his brother, Abel, and the Lord asked him "where is Abel your brother?", he replied that: "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

Perhaps, all of us, especially the rich, should heed the words of one of the great sons of the United States of America who perished because of his belief in equality and justice for all human beings, and whose civil rights movement is currently marking its golden jubilee.

Martin Luther King warned that: "As long as there is poverty in the world I can never be rich, even if I have a billion dollars. As long as diseases are rampant and millions of people in this world cannot expect to live more

than twenty-eight or thirty years, I can never be totally healthy even if I just got a good check-up at Mayo Clinic. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the way our world is made. No individual or nation can stand out boasting of being independent. We are interdependent."

The majority of the human race is entitled to ask the question whether the rich are responding the way they do because the further impoverishment of the poor is to the advantage of the rich, giving meaning to the old observation that the rich get richer as the poor get poorer.

As the divide between the rich and the poor widens and becomes a serious global crisis we see an increase

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"The test of friendship is assistance in adversity, and that too, unconditional assistance. Co-operation which needs consideration is a commercial contract and not friendship. Conditional co-operation is like adulterated cement which does not bind."

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in the concentration of economic, military, technological and media power.

Your Excellencies, something is seriously wrong when people risk life and limb travelling in suffocating containers to Western Europe in search of a better life.

Something is wrong when many Africans traverse, on foot, the harsh, hot and hostile Sahara Desert to reach the European shores.

Something is wrong when walls are built to prevent poor neighbours from entering those countries where they seek better opportunities.

Something is indeed wrong when all these people, whose fault is merely the fact that their lives are defined by poverty, try desperately to reach countries where they believe the conditions of their existence would improve, only to meet hostile, and at times, most barbaric and inhuman receptions.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

In part, the United Nations is unable to fulfil some of the objectives set by the founders in San Francisco because, in truth, it does not reflect the expansion of the global family of free nations. Because this organisation of the peoples of the world has grown to encompass the entire world, many had thought that it would be logical that this custodian of global democracy would itself serve as a beacon in our continuing quest for democracy in all our countries. Clearly, for the UN to continue occupying its moral high ground, it has to reform itself urgently, and lead by practical example as to what is meant to be democratic.

Even as we face the cold reality of the indifference of the many among the rich and powerful, this Organisation of the peoples of the world has continued to offer hope and the possibility of the fulfilment of the aspirations of the majority of the peoples of the world.

All of us, including those who are hesitant to implement the commonly agreed positions, agree that this Organisation has entrenched the correct understanding that development is both a right and is central to the advancement of all humanity.

In this regard, all of us, individually and collectively and as members of the UN, must do whatever is necessary to

develop and implement policies and strategies aimed at the achievement of sustainable development.

It is important that international organisations such as the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and others should, without any equivocation, seriously embark on the implementation of all the commitments that we have made as the international community.

This Organisation of the peoples of the world cannot merely note the unacceptable situation that Africa would not achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

We need further, focused and concrete programmes to accelerate development in Africa and avoid the possibility of that continent sinking further into the morass of poverty and underdevelopment.

Because we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, we have the responsibility to end the rhetoric and implement programmes that would ensure that all human beings live decent, humane and prosperous lives.

On behalf of G77 and China as well as my own country, South Africa, I take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, Jan Eliasson, for the great work he did in steering this organisation during the past year, as President of the General Assembly.

We are honoured to welcome Her Excellency, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa as the President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly and wish her well in her important work. Madame President, we pledge to do whatever is necessary to make your work easier, so that through your efforts, the poor can regain full confidence in the ability of the UN to improve their conditions of life.

Everyday the masses cry out in pain, frustration and anger. Everyday they ask: is there anybody there who stops to hear their voices! Is there anybody there who listens to and is ready to respond to their heartfelt plea for the restoration of their dignity?

Thank you.

Cover story

“Celebrating Our Living

Celebrating Heritage Day and Heritage Month 2006

HERITAGE DAY is celebrated every year in South Africa on 24 September. This year's celebrations will be held at Grand Parade, Cape Town. The theme is “Celebrating Our Living Heritage (“What We Live”) as the focus of Heritage month of September from 2004-2007. This theme will continue in the next year ending in September 2007. Within this three year framework the September Heritage Month 2006 focuses on the sub-theme: “Celebrating Our Music, Our Heritage”. The Department of Arts and Culture, as the lead Department, aims to strategically use Heritage Month as a vehicle for a long-term vision of collecting, preserving, protecting, promoting and disseminating living heritage/intangible cultural heritage.

Of importance to us as the Department of Foreign Affairs is to note that what South Africa's policy and legislative documents normally refer to as living heritage is internationally referred to as Intangible Cultural Heritage by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Furthermore, with the recent ratification of the International Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, a new trend is gaining momentum whereby heritage specialists and practitioners are beginning to use “Living Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage interchangeably. “Living Heritage” means the intangible aspects of inherited culture and may include: cultural tradition, oral history, performance; ritual; popular memory; skills and techniques; Indigenous knowledge system; approach to nature, society and social relationships; oral traditions and expressions, per-

Heritage”

forming arts; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship

OBJECTIVES OF HERITAGE MONTH 2006

- highlight the role of music in nation building and social cohesion
- raise public awareness about the role of the music industry in economic development, that is, it contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product and job creation
- make South Africans aware of the significance of preserving our mu-

sical heritage

- create awareness about career opportunities in the music industry
- highlight the role musicians played in the struggle for liberation in South Africa

THEME AND MESSAGES

Theme: Celebrating Our Living Heritage

Sub-theme: Celebrating our Music, Our Heritage.

Heritage month will be celebrated within the context of the theme for all the anniversaries namely, Age of Hope-Through struggle to Freedom. ➤

Change of name: Branch FSI and HR to Branch: Human Capital Management (HCM)



*Ambassador
P N January-
Bardill
Deputy
Director-
General
Branch:
Human Capital
Management*

DURING JULY 2005 a directive was issued by Executive Management to merge the Chief Directorates of Human Resources and FSI. It was seen as inevitable due to the natural synergies between the work of HR and that of the FSI. It thus enabled the Department to consolidate and focus its efforts on managing the training and development of the talent of our people and to ensure that their potential is fully explored and utilised.

After the merger the Branch met to discuss their strategic plan and analysed the synergies of each directorate within the Branch. During this workshop it was decided that a suitable name should be given to the Branch to enable it to be recognised easily.

A report was handed to the Director-General in which the outcomes of the workshop were tabled as well as the proposed name change. The DG took note of the report and accordingly approved the submission.

At a Branch team building meeting held in July 2006, all FSI & HR members christened and adopted the new name. Ambassador January-Bardill, DDG of the Branch, thus has pleasure in announcing our adoption of the Branch name “Human Capital Management.” The new name does not negate the unique identity of the Foreign Service Institute.

The Branch is in the process of ensuring that the department’s communication infrastructure makes the necessary adjustments to reflect the new name and avoid confusion. ➤



President Thabo Mbeki and Minister of Arts and Culture Dr Pallo Jordan at Heritage Day celebrations, Taung, North West Province, 24 September 2005.

Time out for secretaries and administrative support staff (Branch: Multilateral)

WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2006 WAS SECRETARIES' DAY. Although not as commercialised as "Mother's Day", this special day was set aside to recognise the work done by Secretaries and Administrative Support Staff, which, unfortunately, often go unnoticed. Although not a public holiday, yet, this day is set aside world-wide in an effort to recognise the valuable work done by these officials, and to create an understanding of the functions they perform. In a much appreciated gesture, the Deputy Director-General : Multilateral, Ambassador George Nene, invited the Secretaries and Administrative Support Staff to lunch as a token of his and the Branch's appreciation of the work done by them. The theme of Secretaries day was "To express gratitude for the work done by Secretaries and Administrative Support Staff "

It was with renewed vigour that the officials came back to work the next day, knowing that the tasks they perform daily do not go unnoticed. ➔



Deputy Director-General Ambassador George Nene with the administrative and support staff.

International Literacy Day

DFA Supporting ABET for a literate South Africa

1 – 8 SEPTEMBER HAS BEEN DECLARED NATIONAL LITERACY WEEK and 8 September 2006 was observed by the Department as International Literacy Day with the aim of highlighting the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

In line with the National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS), the Department of Foreign Affairs is currently providing Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) to its employees. Under the NSDS, Objective 2, success indicator 2.7 of NSDS, states: "By March 2010 at least 700 000 workers should have achieved at least ABET level four." In this current financial year, 49 learners are enrolled on the ABET programme in the DFA. Last year we had 56 learners on the programme. A pass rate of 61% was achieved with 6 learners obtaining distinctions in ABET level 1 (equivalence of school grade 1-3).



Be on the lookout for our Top Achievers in the future editions of the DFA Now.

WHAT IS ABET?

ABET programmes provide adult learners with a chance to be able to read and write so they can pursue different career pathways and lifelong learning.

ABET VISION

A literate South Africa within which

all citizens have acquired basic education and training that enables effective participation in socio-economic and political processes that contributes to construction, development and social transformation.

WHY IS ABET NECESSARY?

According to the 2001 Census, about 4.7 million of adults have received no schooling, therefore,

literacy week is highlighted to support those learners who are on the ABET programme and motivate and draw those who are not on the programme for a better South Africa. ABET is necessary to ensure that South Africans are given the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes required for social, economic and political transformation. ➔

Directorate: Human Resource Development (Generic Training)

flowers for my wife

(a tribute to those south african women who fought the apartheid regime)

my wife waited for decades
to receive her beautiful flowers
her rainbow coloured flowers
her flowers of hard labour and pains
ah she endured like our mothers

my wife like our grandmothers
never touched flowers for sometime
nor touched flowers of any kind
thorns of hard work by her black hands
in white madam's houses she touched

my wife like our sisters
never known peace in the racist South Africa
she never thought of buying any flowers
in her status flowers became a child's play
for her stomach was always groaning
groaning because of angry hunger everyday

my wife like our aunts
never known respect because of triple oppression
oppressed as a black as a woman as a worker
under heartbreaking apartheid colonial domination
her flowers were sharp stubborn thorns of inequality
that surrounded her bitter past from birth to death
her flowers were long imprisonment sentences
that toured her soul and haunted her being
but never deterred her determination

my wife waited for decades
every season she waited for her bright flowers
she waited in the beds of blacks-only hospitals
she waited in the poverty stricken bantustans
she waited in the slave labour of boere plase
she waited in the dark dust of squalid townships
she waited in the racial segregated dwellings
where lives were demarcated
by barbed wires of heated hatred
she waited

where lives were separated
by pigmentation of the skin colour
between black and white
she waited

my wife waited
she waited in the situation of diabolic
social darwinism in its theory and practice
where human beings were catergorised
as barbaric and civilised
she waited
in tying and testing circumstances of time
where children were brutally murdered
she waited

my wife like my fellow compatriots
she never stood idling and inactive
she waited in the streets toyi-toying fighting with stones
she waited for her flowers in exile in prison in graveyards
she waited for her flowers in the underground cells crawling
like your wife my brother she waited in hell but never wailing
for many decades our women waited for their flowers working

my wife waited for decades
she waited for her flowers ploughing
sowing seeds for the flowers of tomorrow
she waited for all her flowers to blossom
tilling the soil with the baby crying at her back
ah my wife like our mothers and our grandmothers
they waited with vim fighting
and marching in Pretoria streets
fighting exploitation dehumanisation and dompas laws
armed with revolutionary knowledge of uMkhonto we Sizwe
fighting with unprecedented precision of Alexandra Kalashnikov
she waited until all her bullets began to flower

my wife these are your flowers
like our mothers our sisters and our grandmothers
your flowers never grew in our home gardens
but in asphalt streets and in rural abject poverty
your flowers emerged in the fatal factory floors
your flowers are blooming in the people's constitution
your flowers are fruits of victory that you long awaited
laboured and delivered with excruciating pains
now tell me are your flowers a harvest of thorns
or hope in the long list of many promises
no stand up as always wathint' abafazi
wathint' imbokodo uzakufa!

- Kaya Somgqeza
PRAU

Where were you ...?

