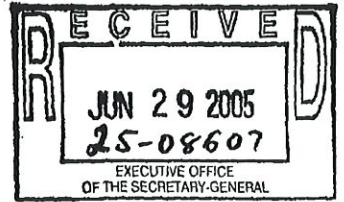


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NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The celebration of the 60th Anniversary

I am writing in response to your request for an update on UN60 activities. Please find attached a representative list of events we are currently engaged in, or have been informed about. I must say that our civil society partners and UN colleagues in the field seem to have taken this commemoration very much to heart, and I will not be at all surprised to see the list grow considerably as we move closer to the Summit and more dispatches are received from UNICs and others.

Overall, there is a very satisfying array of events and activities, some completed, some in progress and some still at the planning stage. They range from the extravaganza this weekend in San Francisco, at which I will represent you, to special concerts (in London and Warsaw), special educational publications, discounted tours of UN headquarters for schoolchildren and even an arctic expedition dedicated to this anniversary.

Unfortunately some of the major projects that were envisaged have fallen through because of problems sponsors have faced in mobilizing funds or, in the case of a proposed concert in New York, because of the reluctance of the city administration to offer an appropriate venue. But that said, the energy and enthusiasm of our many partners amply compensates for occasional disappointments.

Although a number of events on this list have already taken place, I would like to propose that we consider officially commemorating the year from 25 June 2005 to 25 June 2006. This would allow us to continue to use the UN60 tag to generate interest in priority issues, like your reform proposals, well into next year. The ceremonies in San Francisco this weekend and in the General Assembly Hall on Monday, 27 June, could then serve to mark the UN launch.

In addition, I seek your approval for the use of the UN60 logo and theme developed by DPI (which you were kind enough to approve earlier this year) on the promotional materials we are developing for the World Summit. I am recommending this course of action because I feel strongly that we should be mirroring the support for the UN60 that we have seen from our civil society partners, and labelling this most important event a UN60 activity would serve to indicate our commitment to the commemoration.

I approve the UN60 Logo

Shashi Tharoor
22 June 2005
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Official observances and commemorations

- On the weekend of 25 June, I represented you at the major celebration of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco, titled *Enhancing the Vital Role of the United Nations*. Dignitaries attended an official commemoration in the Fairmont Hotel, and a special commemorative event at Grace Cathedral (where your video message was shown). The events were organized by UNA-USA in cooperation with DPI, and the City and County of San Francisco;
- DPI organized a special UNHQ commemoration of the Charter signing on 27 June;
- A special UN60 religious service is scheduled for London's St Paul's Cathedral on 24 October, where representatives of faith groups will contribute statements about the UN made by their leading members. Organizers advise us that Queen Elizabeth will attend (news currently embargoed). The diplomatic community has been notified and the UK Government will be closely involved;
- Poland will issue a special UN60 commemorative stamp, based on the work of the winner of a nationwide design contest. A national essay contest is also being organised, and we are informed that the President of Poland plans to address the 2005 UN Day commemoration in that country to commemorate the UN60. A special ceremony at the Warsaw Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to honour United Nations peacekeepers has also been planned;
- UNA-Uganda is working with UNAs in Congo and Kenya on plans to hold a joint UN60 commemoration on UN Day;
- The Governor of Wisconsin, UNA-Wisconsin and NGO Poverty International are hosting a special UN60 UN Day Dinner.

Seminars and conferences

- The Saga Foundation held a World Leaders Summit in conjunction with the San Francisco UN60 commemoration, at which former Heads of State and other prominent people discussed international cooperation on security and development issues;
- San Francisco NGOs also organized two international forums, on water and on information technologies, allied to the UN60 commemoration;

- DPI hosted the first of its new UN60 'Inreach/Outreach' discussion series titled The Charter: a Framework for States; a Promise to Peoples on 23 June. Speakers included Lawrence S. Finkelstein, former assistant to Ralph Bunche, Tonya Gonella Frichner, President of the American Indian Law Alliance, Giuseppe Nesi of the Permanent Mission of Italy and Cora Weiss, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace. The series is designed to provide a forum for those outside the Organisation to contribute ideas on issues vital to the UN agenda;
- Three special UN60 conferences will be held in Poland this year, on the MDGs (in Lodz), on United Nations history (in Krakow) and on UN Reform in Warsaw. The Polish Foreign Minister will attend and participate in the latter;
- The theme of the 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, scheduled for 7 to 9 September, will be NGOs' engagement in the UN60 renewal process;
- The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council is holding an international summit titled Art and Recovery from 9 to 11 September. The Organizers plan to pitch the event as a UN60 commemorative activity and feature addresses by United Nations officials;
- UNA-Venezuela is organizing a regional forum on reform of the UN system.

Cultural activities

- As adjuncts to the San Francisco commemoration, film festivals, cultural performances and events for children for organized by NGO partners;
- NGO Partnerships for Change is organizing a UN60 concert in San Francisco, currently scheduled for 6 November;
- With the support of DPI and UNA-USA, an exhibition of 60 photographs of UN staff taken by Rong Jiang (of DESA) were projected onto a screen during the formal UN60 event at Grace Cathedral on 26 June. These pictures, and accompanying comments on their UN experience by the relevant staff, will feature in a separate exhibit titled *We the Peoples* later this year;

- A special UN60 film festival, titled *Stories for the Field*, was held at the New School on 21 and 22 May. The festival, a joint project of DPI and the New School, featured documentaries from the UN system and two panel discussions on the UN at 60, and on the UN's humanitarian activities;
- An exhibition of historical photographs drawn from the UN photo archives opened in the Visitors' Lobby on 27 June;
- UNA-UK is planning a special UN60 programme titled *Music to Unite Nations*, on 16 October and has received support from leading musicians worldwide. Proceeds will be directed to projects associated with the MDGs;
- The UK Royal International Air Tattoo will hold a UN60 tribute at Fairford in the UK on 16 and 17 July. It will feature aircraft that have been used in UN humanitarian and peacekeeping operations;
- A UN60 concert featuring the reprise from Artur Rubinstein's 1945 San Francisco piano concert was held in Warsaw on 24 June.
- An exhibition of UN posters is also planned for Warsaw later this year;
- UNA-Colorado is organizing a celebratory UN60 concert with as-yet unnamed international artists;
- UNA-New Haven is hosting a UN60 film festival;

Information products

- UNTV's *World Chronicle* programme has recorded three special TV shows on UN60 themes, which will be broadcast globally over the next six months (1. A special conversation with Sir Brian Urquhart on the UN at 60; 2. The power of ideas in international reform – a roundtable discussion with the UNU and former PR Heinbecker; and 3. A discussion on the evolution of the international civil service with representatives of the UN Intellectual History Project of the Ralph Bunche Institute at CUNY);
- A special Russian-language radio series has been produced by UN Radio titled *60 Years in 60 Minutes*, which features archival and current audio material collected into short radio features on the UN and its achievements;

- UN Radio is also producing a Chinese-language UN60 radio series titled *The UN in My Eyes*. Listeners have been invited to send in short essays with this title, and the best and most interesting entries are incorporated into DPI's regular Chinese radio programmes;
- A special 10 minute documentary of events leading up to the signing of the UN Charter is in production (by UNTV). Once completed, it will be shown on a continuous video loop in the Visitors Lobby. It will include a segment on the Holocaust;
- Film-maker Romuald Sciora will screen his documentary on the history of the UN in New York and in Geneva in the autumn. A panel discussion on the UN is planned to accompany the screenings;
- Two special UN teaching resource books will be published this year by the International Baccalaureate Organization and DPI, titled *Sharing the Planet: Citizenship in the Primary Years* and *Sharing the Planet: Citizenship in the Secondary Years*;
- Public service announcements promoting the millennium development goals, poverty eradication, HIV/AIDS, urban slums, water and sanitation issues, and children's rights will be screened during Luciano Pavarotti's World Farewell Tour concerts. The TV spots, produced by DPI and featuring Mr. Pavarotti, will be shown at 40 concerts major cities throughout Europe, North, South and Central America, South Africa, South East Asia and Australia in 2005 and 2006;
- UNIC Pretoria is publishing a Model UN educational manual for the UN60;
- UNA-Connecticut and UNA-UK Westminster Branch are publishing a UN60 Calendar for Peace.

Other outreach activities

- Free guided tours of HQ were offered on four Sundays in June culminating in Charter Day, (26 June) (financial support for the free tours was provided by the UN Foundation). The tours proved immensely popular, and 2,700 tourists taking advantage of this

special UN60 offer on the final Sunday (compared to approx. 800 tourists on the equivalent Sunday in June 2004).

- With support from the United Nations Foundation, we will offer half-price guided tour tickets to 3000 elementary and high school students in New York between October and December 2005.
- The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has created a searchable multilingual website containing the text of speeches made by Heads of State and Government on previous UN anniversaries, for use by academics, students and Permanent Missions (address: www.un.org/depts/dhl/anniversary/index.html).
- New York University has introduced a new graduate course to its autumn semester roster this year titled *The United Nations At Sixty: A Time for Renewal*;
- A vigil for international peace dedicated to UN60 will be held in Central Park on 18 September. This vigil has been organised by the Feng Shui Club of the UN Staff Recreation Council.
- A special UN Day was organized by DPI and UN system partners at this year's MIP TV Broadcasters' Market at Cannes, including a forum on the Global Media Aids Initiative, which I chaired. It was attended by 57 media executives representing major broadcasters from around the world with your Special Envoy, former President Bill Clinton featured as the keynote speaker. The Day also included the official launch of the MDG mass media campaign presided over by Evelyn Herfkens.
- A polar expedition dedicated to UN60 is now underway in Russia, led by Vladimir Chukov, President of the Arctic expedition centre.
- UNA-China will run a special essay contest on human rights in cooperation with a national student newspaper, China Youth Daily.
- UNA-South Africa is hosting a UN60 Millennium Challenge Competition for academic proposals from university students on how to best achieve MDGs in South Africa;
- UNICS are encouraging local partners to hold special UN60 Model General Assemblies. To date, organizers in Brazil, Canada, China, DRC-Congo, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States have confirmed their intention to hold these events.

Selected activities related to UN renewal and the World Summit

Because the major theme of the UN60 is UN renewal, the strategic focus we are using for UN60 activities is promotion of the ILF recommendations and the World Summit, and we are correspondingly branding relevant Summit activities with the UN60 logo. Some of these activities are outlined below:

- Media Blitz: DPI is coordinating a media blitz to promote the Summit in the media around the world. This effort involves encouraging and arranging media interviews with senior UN officials and officials from partner organizations and assisting with the drafting and placement of OpEds on these issues. Your Chief of Staff has sent a memorandum to executive heads of agencies and department heads asking them to participate and providing them with key messages that they can use;
- Advertising Campaign: A special advertising campaign designed to inform New York residents about the importance of the Summit has been developed in cooperation with the Millennium Development Campaign and will be launched several weeks prior to the Summit;
- Progress report on MDGs: Following your official launch of the progress report on 9 June, a series of press briefings and events were held the following week by participating UN agencies, regional commissions and the OECD. In addition to New York, venues included London, Geneva, Santiago, Bangkok, Beirut, Nairobi, Stockholm, Paris. This was followed, in the week beginning 20 June by more national events organized by UNICs and UNDP offices. The report continues to be the subject of media interest and has garnered significant media coverage;
- G-77 Summit: the Deputy Secretary-General and USG Chowdhury undertook a number of interviews on Summit issues in the wake of the G-77 Summit;
- Civil Society GA Hearings: DPI prepared and distributed background materials to UNICs, UN system partners and the media to promote the hearings and draw attention to the Summit;
- Media seminar: DPI has arranged a special Summit media seminar for 14 senior journalists and editors from around the world,

featuring two days of briefings (28-29 June) on key issues by senior UN staff;

- ECOSOC High-level segment: UN system colleagues have been contacted by DPI and the President of ECOSOC and asked to encourage their participating principals to promote the Summit wherever possible during the ECOSOC High-level segment;
- Special Summit outreach efforts are also planned in conjunction with the AU Summit (with special emphasis on African media), the G-8 Summit, the ECOSOC humanitarian segment (media interviews with Special Envoy Clinton and USG Egeland), the UNDP civil society conference and the annual IPU conference.

Dag Hammarskjöld centenary activities

A series of events focused on the centenary of the birth of Dag Hammarskjöld have also taken place throughout the year. These events have certainly raised the profile of the UN60, and DPI has encouraged the use of the UN60 logo on promotional material for them;

Notable amongst these events is an occasional lecture and conversation series jointly organized at UNHQ by DPI and the Permanent Mission of Sweden. The first, on 4 April, was entitled *Dag Hammarskjöld's legacy and its relevance to the UN today*, and took the form of a moderated discussion between Sir Brian Urquhart and Ambassador Jan Eliasson.

Cc: The Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Malloch Brown
Mr. Mortimer
Mr. Sommereyns
Mr. Kennedy