



**United Nations Association in Canada**  
**Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Myths vs. Realities: UNA-Canada presents a public lecture on Modern Peacekeeping***

Ottawa - (2006 March 14) **The United Nations Association in Canada is hosting a Public Lecture** entitled “*Increasing Global Peacekeeping Capacity*” at the Ottawa Congress Centre at 6:00pm on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The lecture is arranged in partnership with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (FAC).

The lecture will be moderated by **Kathryn White**, Executive Director, UNA-Canada, with special guest speaker **Mr. Souren Georges Seraydarian**, former Deputy Special Representative to the UN Secretary General, Liberia. Comments and Canadian context will be delivered by **Wendy Gilmour**, Director, Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Group, Foreign Affairs Canada.  
\* (*Bios for each are attached as a separate document*).

“*Increasing Global Peacekeeping Capacity*” is a public lecture that will focus on the harsh realities of modern peacekeeping operations. Discourse on the changing nature of peacekeeping, beyond the traditional Canadian conceptions of the “blue beret”, will be highlighted. Further emphasis will be given by Mr. Seraydarian on the international scope of peacekeeping and the evolving concepts of peace-building.

This public lecture is being held concurrently with the **Senior Mission’s Leader Course**. The course is an intensive two week training session involving top future leaders of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), organized by the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC).

**UNA-Canada** is a national charitable organization that is celebrating its landmark 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a ‘think and do’ organization, UNA-Canada supports a network of fifteen volunteer branches from our headquarters in Ottawa. Ever creative and innovative, its mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues which affect us all.

**DATE: Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2006**  
**TIME: 6:00pm**  
**LOCATION: Ottawa Congress Centre, 55 Colonel By Drive, Salon 5B**

**For further information please feel free to contact:**

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**BIOS**

**Mr. Souren G. Seraydrian, *Former Deputy Special Representative to the Secretary General, Liberia (previous responsibilities in Haiti, South Africa, Afghanistan and Bosnia)***

Mr. Souren G. Seraydarian retired from the United Nations in October 2004 after completing service as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General for Operations and Rule of Law in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Mr. Seraydarian was a career staff member of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and later of the United Nations. He holds a PhD in International Law and Political Science and a post-graduate Diploma from the Diplomatic Academy in Austria. He has conducted post-graduate work in human resources management in the United Kingdom as well as economic development in France. After joining the UN/UNIDO in July 1969, Mr. Seraydarian served UNIDO in the administration of technical assistance and human resources management and subsequently as Director of Personnel, Director of the UNIDO Office in Geneva and Representative of the Director-General of UNIDO to the UN and its specialized agencies in Geneva.

In 1993, he joined the UN Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), as Chief Administrative Officer for this joint United Nations/Organization of American States mission. In 1994, Mr. Seraydarian was assigned to the United Nations Observer Mission South Africa (UNOMSA). He subsequently participated in the planning of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and served with the mission from October 1994 to March 1996 until his assignment to the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) as Deputy Transition Administrator.

In January 1998, Mr. Seraydarian was appointed as Representative of the Secretary-general and head of United Nations Police Support Group in Croatia until the closure of the mission in February 1999. In August 1999, he joined the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and completed his assignment as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in December 2002.

In November/December 2001 and March 2002, he led the assessment team and subsequently planned the deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission.

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**Kathryn White, *Executive Director, United Nations Association in Canada***

Kathryn White assumed the position as Executive Director of the United Nations Association in Canada in late November, 2003. For the past twenty-five years, Kate White has been the head of *Black & White Inc.* an Ottawa-based international consultancy specializing in policy research, education and citizen engagement, integrating risk management and risk perception into initiatives and solutions. She has been recognized nationally and internationally for her leadership in issues ranging from youth-at-risk, climate change, disaster and crisis response and mitigation, corporate social responsibility, international peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Her work adapts policy questions and research into viable policy solutions and options for managers, executives, and senior public- and private-sector decision makers. Among several volunteer engagements, Ms White has also been the National President of UNIFEM Canada from 1993 until March, 2004.

**Wendy Gilmour, Director, *Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Group, Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC)***

Director, Peacekeeping and Peace Operations Group and concurrently, Director Sudan Task Force in the new Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force Secretariat of Foreign Affairs Canada, Wendy Gilmour joined the Foreign Service in 1990, and has served in the Canadian High Commissions to the United Kingdom and to Zimbabwe (with cross accreditation to Mozambique, Angola and Botswana), in addition to being posted to Nigeria as Acting High Commissioner to re-open the Canadian missions in Lagos and Abuja during Nigeria's transition from military to civilian rule in 1998/99. She was a member of the Canadian election observer mission to South Africa's first free elections in 1994. Ms. Gilmour has also served on a number of secondments: in 1996-97 to Sarajevo as a Political Officer in the Office of the High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina; as the Political Advisor to the Commander of NATO's Kosovo Force in Pristina in 1999-2000; and following 9/11, as the Canadian Political Advisor for Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Apollo at the US Central Command HQ in Tampa, Florida in 2001/2002. During her time in Ottawa Ms. Gilmour has served in the International Security, Eastern Europe, Africa and Policy Planning Bureaus.

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