



Published by:

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IN THIS ISSUE

Will the UN fulfil
its calling?

The case for Rev.
Moon

Youth - British,
Scandinavian and
Dutch unite

Morality Forum -
Confronting the
media

What is the
FFWPU?

Events

Will the UN ever fulfil its calling?

By TIM READ

The purpose of the United Nations is to "maintain international peace and security and develop friendly relations among nations." That's what its charter says at least. In reality, the UN can only be as effective as presidents, as well as dictators, allow. Its ability to make a difference rests on *their* ability to put aside ideological differences, hostilities, suspicions and individual national interests.

The UN, in fact, has moved away from its usual peace-keeping style and towards a more interventionist approach. Thanks to the changing nature of conflicts occurring less between countries and more often within them, the alliance now finds itself policing rebel movements, and since these are not, by definition members of the UN, they are not likely to respond to normal political pressures. There have always been problems.

In the 1990s there were mixed successes. Peacekeeping missions were a success in



UN peacekeepers in a newly independent Namibia in 1990

Namibia, Mozambique, and El Salvador and, at least partially, in Cambodia. But the UN's operations in Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia were often a dis-



'Aye' for peace, 'nay' for compromise: Change has often been suggested for the UN, but perhaps a more fundamental reform is needed.

aster, failing to stand up to and prevent appalling massacres, amounting in Bosnia and Rwanda to genocide.

*Religious loyalties
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Recent events have outlined the UN's impotence: in the run up to the 21-day war in Iraq, the UN was effectively sidelined by a squabble between the Security Council members, which had global consequences. In a speech to the General Assembly in September 2002, George W. Bush cited Baghdad's "decade of defiance" of Security Council resolutions. He asked, "Will the UN serve the purpose of its founding... or will it be irrelevant".

The late Sir Alexander Cadogan was the British ambassador to the United Nations in its first years. He wrote in his diary, "The idea of having the five permanent members ... have a veto on any

use of force to stop aggression means that the new league will be a parody of the old."

The charter, he said, was based on the assumption that the (then) Soviets, America, Britain, France and China would always agree on who was an aggressor, including one of themselves, and would live happily ever after.



What kind of role should religious leaders play in global affairs?

Change has been suggested on a number of occasions particularly about expansion. In September 2000, a joint report by the Labour party and the Liberal Democrats said that more countries should be made permanent members of the Security Council, including Germany and Japan, and that in addition one representative each from Latin America, Africa and Asia should become

Continued on back page

The Case for Rev. Moon

A religious leader as well as a uniter of the world's faiths, Rev. Sun Myung Moon has still had his fair share of controversy. In spite of this, is it fair to exclude him from Britain?

By **WALTER TYLER**

A critical decision is set to be made in late spring or early summer in the long running battle between the FFWPU and the Home Office over the right of its members to have Rev Sun Myung Moon come here to minister to them. FFWPU lawyers are soon to lodge a response to a so-called "minded decision" of the Home Secretary in April 2001, to exclude Rev. Moon from Britain on the grounds that his presence here would be likely to promote "public order" problems. Since then a "review process" has been under way in which FFWPU has been attempting to get the Home Office to give details of its case so as to be able to adequately respond to it.

Once the response has been lodged and assessed, senior officials will make a recommendation to the Home Secretary as to what his final decision should be.

FFWPU officials hope that a positive result may bring to an end once and for all to a saga that has been ongoing since May 1978, when officials sought to prevent

Over 250 parents and family of FFWPU members have written to the Home Office in protest.

Rev. Moon entering Britain at Heathrow Airport. At that time, on appeal, the Chief Immigration Adjudicator upheld his right to enter and he stayed in Britain for 4 months. Later the Home Office advised Rev Moon that in future he should seek an entry clearance before attempting to come. On two subsequent occasions (1989 & 1995) when Rev Moon did apply for entry clearance the Home Office refused this, claiming his presence in Britain was undesirable. On both occasions

that decision was judicially overturned as being unlawful.

In the current instance the Home Office decided of its own volition to try and exclude Rev Moon, even in the absence of any entry clearance application.



The current grounds for exemption are that his presence would cause public disorder. But this allegation was thrown out in 1995.

According to FFWPU officials not only have all previous Home Office decisions against Rev Moon been judicially quashed as being unlawful, but there has been a noticeable lack of consistency in the reasons given on each occasion for justifying his exclusion. The 1978 decision was based on the notion that Rev Moon had misled officials as to his real reason for coming here. It was thrown out by the adjudicator as being based on mere "journalistic speculation". The 1989 decision was based on "character and conduct" grounds which were also dismissed by the adjudicator as being baseless. At the appeal hearing the Home Office sought to introduce a new ground based on concern for public order. That too was thrown out. In 1995 a new ground based on alleged concern about disruption to members families when they joined, was introduced. According to FFWPU officials a hidden agenda exists behind these constantly shifting grounds. They point to a Home Office affidavit in the 1995 High Court proceedings which indi-

cates that the Home Office stance is based on a discriminatory desire to stop FFWPU from developing in this country by preventing its Founder from coming to Britain.

After the 1995 decision had been overturned due to a failure by the Home Office to respect fundamental rules of natural justice (Rev Moon was denied the right to state his case) over 250 parents and family members of FFWPU members wrote to the Home Office protesting that, based on their experience, its decision had been wrong and requested that Rev Moon be allowed to enter Britain.

The grounds given for the latest attempt to exclude Rev Moon have therefore changed yet again to one of concern that his presence

here would lead to public disorder - the same allegation thrown out in 1995. Challenged about the basis for this assertion, the Home Office has now conceded that it knows of no public order incident anywhere in the world that

would justify its concerns. Rev Moon's case has been further strengthened by the intervention of many international statesmen, as well as leading academics and religious leaders from this country, who have protested at the Home Office's stance.

(See column, right)

What others have had to say:

The US State Department recently ordered a demarche (official diplomatic note of protest) against the entry ban of Rev. Moon in Germany. Both the US Ambassadors there (HE Daniel Coats and HE Marina Flintrop) believe the ban to be a clear breach of religious freedom. In the State Department's Human Rights report for 2002 they also listed the case as religious discrimination against a minority group.

"Rev. Moon has initiated very important organisations such as the World Religious Foundation, as well as the Council of World Religions for Peace, whose membership includes some of the most distinguished leaders in the world. I am certain that he is hardly a threat to our institutions in Britain."



Sheikh Dr M A Zaki Badawi OBE, (above) Chairman of the Imams and Mosques Council and Founder and Principal of The Muslim College, London

"I very much hope the issue will be decided by reason and good sense, rather than on inaccurate and biased media reporting."

Dr. George D. Chryssides, Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Wolverhampton, England



The Home Office Minister; David Blunkett (top), will be instrumental in the decision making process.

Youth

A real European Union

A gathering of British, Dutch and Scandinavian youth



One of the teams on on the SHUK (Scandinavia Holland UK) youth workshop, 17 - 21 April 2003

By MIRIAM ZACCARELLI

It all started three years ago, when a couple of HARP members (the Highschool Association for the Research of Principle is the youth branch of the Family Federation) from the UK and Holland realised that teenagers go through the same things regardless of what country they're living in. They had the



Eating lunch together in the main hall. Everyone was encouraged to sit with someone from a different country.

new and different people. The teams were carefully balanced to consist of a range of different age groups and nationalities, but the success was really seen in friendships beyond the schedule, as Swedish and English played piano together, Dutch and Belgian played table-football together, and everyone mixed up and mingled themselves for meal times, games and sharing. By the end of the workshop, there were many tears, despite the fact that the workshop had lasted just a few days. But with furtive email address exchanges, and tearful promises to stay in touch, it's obvious that these friendships will last a long time.

Miriam Zaccarelli is the HARP leader for Great Britain

WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT:

"I didn't know what to expect, but the prayer evening touched my heart - I somehow knew that God was there."

Selina, 14, London

"This is my first SHUK workshop and it was a good one. I just hope we can keep this up as a tradition and that the next one will be in Holland!"

Willem, 15, Utrecht Holland

"I think with each workshop we're uniting more, as if we were brothers and sisters."

Crista, 15, Milton Keynes

Morality FORUM

The Morality Forum mobilises both religious and community leaders to campaign for family issues. It has focused on sex education policy for schools gratuitous violence or irresponsible role models in the media. It works with the Family Federation and other organisations that have similar aims.

(Taken from the quarterly, "Morality Forum Update")

UPDATE:

Confronting the Media: Resisting an X-rated play

On Tuesday 22 April the play "XXX" opened at the Riverside Studios in West London to audiences - as well as protesters. Based on the 18th century works of the Marquis De Sade the play features some of the most explicit scenes ever seen on the British stage. "It shows the worst possible scenes of sado-masochism and perversion," according to Morality Forum activist and chairperson John O'Neill.



Morality Forum members hand out flyers to people entering the XXX play at the Riverside Studios

Morality Forum members joined together with members of Mediawatch UK to hand out leaflets and take comments from audience members who had seen the play. Two had walked out in disgust. The play has now caught the attention of the Home Office and is being investigated by police. "Sex in public is an offence, a Home Office spokesperson is reported to have said." The play has received much attention from the media since it's opening and has received mostly negative reviews.

Working together with the Morality Forum are:

Mediawatch UK:
www.mediawatchuk.org
Media March:
www.mediamarch.org.uk

Working with Media March



MF members made signs and placards for the XXX demonstration

Many people in Britain, especially parents and school teachers, are deeply concerned about the moral 'meltdown' in the media, particularly in broadcasting and on the Internet. Its destructive influence is contributing substantially to the breakdown of marriage and family life in the UK and to the increase in violent and sexual crime.



On a signature drive to close a strip club in Barnet, London.

The March calls on concerned members of the public, of all faiths or of no faith, young or old, of all cultures, to join in peaceful protest to provoke Parliament to strengthen Britain's obscenity laws.

For more information on Morality Forum activities:
email: hq@ffwpu.org.uk
tel: 020 8909 2604



**Visit the British
Family Federation
WEBSITE**
WWW.FFWPU.ORG.UK



What is the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification?



*The
Founders
of the
Family
Federation,
Rev. and
Mrs. Sun
Myung
Moon.*

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification is a spiritual and family based organisation. We believe that spirituality, as expressed in the world's

different faiths, sustains strong individuals, and that traditional family values are the basis of a society's well-being.

In 185 nations the FFWPU promotes activities to help build a peaceful world through true families. We hold marriage re-dedication and blessing ceremonies, educational conferences, service projects, seminars on family life and interfaith meetings.

With branches all over the

UK, There is an active membership of over 500 with many thousands more who support and espouse our views.

Family Church members of the FFWPU hold regular worship services and Sunday schools.

For more information on our various departments and activities across the country, log on to:

www.ffwpu.org.uk

Will the UN ever fulfil its calling?

permanent members.

It also called for another four non-permanent members, to bring the total Security Council membership up from 15 to 24. "Expanding the Security Council would undoubtedly bestow upon it greater legitimacy," said the report.

But Rev. Moon, in his inaugural address for the IIFWP* in February 1999, said he believed that more fundamental reform was necessary. He said, "Often, in the modern era, religions work toward the realisation of their ideals while keeping a certain distance from the realms of worldly power."

He went on to point out that the root of human problems is not merely political, so social and political solutions alone will always be insufficient. And he noted that religious loyalties far outweigh political loyalties in the hearts of most people.

"It is now the time for religion to exert genuine leadership in the world. I believe that religious peo-

ple should feel responsible for the situation of humankind, and for resolving the various inequities of this age. ... Now is

Imagine the UN adopting a two-house structure to include distinguished religious leaders.

indeed the time for them to repent for not having exerted themselves fully for the sake of world salvation. Instead, they have been absorbed with the pursuit of individual salvation and denominational interests. Mere belief in love is not enough. It must be accompanied by its practice."

"World peace can be realised through the synergy of the statesmanship and measures taken by politicians who represent the body and the secular world, and the wisdom and efforts of the world's religious leaders, who represent the mind and the world of the

spirit. The time has come for us to seriously reflect even on such a matter as restructuring the United Nations. Might it not even be possible to imagine the UN as adopting a two-house structure?"

"What if the existing United Nations comprised of national representatives serving in one house that speaks for national interests? Then a religious council or UN senate could be established, comprising distinguished religious leaders and leaders in the those fields of society pertaining more to the heart, for example, culture and education."

Clearly as a global organisation, the UN needs a global perspective, and the religious council should be better positioned to address the interests of all peoples, transcendent of regions or nations. Perhaps, in this way, the United Nations might have a better chance to fulfil its calling.

*Tim Read is the President of the
Family Federation of Great Britain*

Upcoming EVENTS

Prayers for Peace

"Korea - Crisis on the peninsula"

Tuesday 6 May

7 to 9pm, London HQ.

Interfaith prayer meeting

"Sisterhood Meeting"

Saturday 7 June

Women's Federation for World Peace

2pm, London HQ

IIFWP Conference

Saturday 14 June

London HQ.

British Clergy Leadership Conference

Saturday 28 June

London HQ.

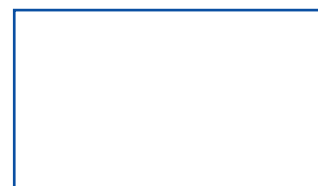
On the importance of family

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To contact your local Family Church:



The Family Times is an official publication of the FFWPU of Great Britain

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