

I am a true advocate of the United Nations. I have defended this great institution which does so much good. I write a weekly column from its vast reservoir of information. There are never moments which are dull here for there is so much to chronicle and share with the people I love — those who read the black newspapers throughout the United States. For two years now, as I wind down the book I am writing about this world body — plus my worldly excursions in journalism about Africa, the Arabs, the Caribbean and the Third World — I am beginning to feel some chagrin.

All is not well behind these great walls of marble. There's this gang of the few who go out of their way to make life a little untenable for the vast majority. I don't even think these guys are necessarily organized but they end up achieving the same things. Let's call it denial, inconvenience, lack of quality plus lousy planning and thinking. I suppose I had best segmentize my approach about the aberrations which one is subject to.

Gaining Entrance — The Badges
The security force is an excellent and very necessary arm of the UN. Their record in keeping interlopers out and thereby incidents down is meritorious. There are five ways to get inside the building. As a visitor, you have your own entrance. Unless you have a pass to attend specific meetings of the various bodies and committees, you are restricted to a huge area which has two cafeterias, a gift shop, lounges, restrooms, post office, chapel and a gallery. To see other parts of the UN, you must join a tour or have a certified friend who can take you to certain areas, including the dining room and cafeterias. People who work for the Secretariat have special identification and so do others accredited to the UN who represent non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Then there are the journalists who, in addition to their own press cards, are required to have a UN temporary pass or a regular UN I.D. — which includes one's picture.

Of course, members of the Diplomatic Corps of the 157 Missions are also issued special identification.

The rule has been — you must show your I.D. to gain entrance or have a valid reason to enter.

On my return from the People's Republic of China a few weeks ago, I was taken to task for not wearing my badge. Although I am known to most Security guards, this officer went far afield — warning me in harsh language that if I didn't wear this plastic card around my neck or on my lapel, he would personally prevent me from entering the UN building. Again, needless to say, this blond gentleman failed to hear my explanation that I was unaware of such a regulation because I had told him that I had been in and out of the UN since the days of Dr. Ralph Bunche and had always respected UN rules. This man remained ugly until I walked away.

Herein lies the crux of this badge business. It seems as if Mr. Jack W. Santarelli, Chief of Security, has sold the new Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, this new requirement. The truth of the matter is, many members of the Missions refuse to wear them. Some journalists who work for the major newspapers and networks also don't comply. I remember this same guard who upbraided me passed the reporter of New York's most respected newspaper by, who seldom wears his badge.

My point here is don't play favorites. Apply the rule to everybody.

Just to prove how inept the badge regulation can be, I made my own test. I borrowed one from a female friend. The guards didn't even notice. The on-the-spot inspection of all badges is questionable to me.

I do however wear my badge at all times.

The Food
For the past several months prior to the current take over of the UN concession by the Canteen Corp. (a US company), the food was well portioned and good in the Delegates Dining Room, the UNCA Club and in the cafeterias.

Lately, the Canteen Corp is cutting corners in every way. I agree with and quote the reporter who wrote in the March-September edition of the

United Nations

There Are Aberrations Inside United Nations Headquarters

By Curtis T. Perkins

Periodical Report who had this to say in part about UN food:

"Since writing my review of UN eating facilities the new cafeteria has opened on the first floor. So, a word or two about that. I returned from vacation and went immediately to check out the new improved cafeteria, and indeed it is, so far as ambiance is concerned. But it seems we must sacrifice food for comfort. While the new caf. is considerably quieter (although it shakes a bit when traffic rumbles beneath), and a lot smarter, the food has really gone off. Both qualitatively and quantitatively, what we get to eat now, has greatly diminished. For example: a spinach salad, which used to come on a normal sized dinner plate now comes on something the size of a saucer; a side salad, which used to be either soupbowl size, or hearts of lettuce on a bread and butter plate, now comes in a sort of dish Chinese restaurants serve soy sauce — i.e., tiny; a shred of lettuce and a bit of tomato. On another occasion, I watched a colleague order Brackwurst. He was astonished when given one lone little sausage, a blob of instant mashed potatoes, and a stalk or two of overcooked, yellowing broccoli. It was rather like being a prisoner, lining up for rations — inappetizing and inadequate. The vegetables, never particularly delectable, are now abominable, and those portions are a joke. Furthermore this cafeteria, which I'm told cost 12 million dollars, has not solved the problem of chaos and queues. The space allotted to serving food is ridiculously small and very badly organized. God knows what it will be like during the GA at peak hour. Even in August, when half the staff's away, the queues for food at various counters are intertwined, confused, and as long as they ever were in less attractive surroundings. However, if you prefer light and space to starving off hunger, the new cafeteria is a definite improvement, and it would seem that starvation is the price we have to pay for style. I wouldn't mind so much if the style or the smaller portions had also improved but it hasn't. You just get less of something worse. The Staff Council Committee responsible for services such as food should consider this when the catering contract comes up for renewal, and at least go for comparable quality without new surroundings, if not increased quantity. I'm sure we won't have to worry about increased prices; they'll happen anyway.

... The Delegates Dining Room on the other hand, has pretensions to being a "good restaurant". No serious gourmet would agree, and sometimes the food, which is considerably higher-priced than the cafeteria, is nevertheless suspiciously like that served in the cafeteria (Cod Almondine, for example). The vegetables too, tend to have the same overcooked, stewed appearance, and taste, but the tables have tablecloths, there are flowers and napkins, and people to take a rather long time serving you. The food is certainly more exotic; I had a partridge stuffed with snails and mushrooms recently and it wasn't bad, although a little dry. Most of the regular entrees are fairly safe, but although the Dining Room is presumably meant to be elegant, fit for a Foreign Minister if not a King, it really is rather awful looking. Occasionally I have taken non-UN people to lunch there and they are quite appalled at the decor. The wine list isn't bad. I can't use superlatives about anything, so isn't bad is about as complimentary as I'm prepared to be at this stage but some of the wines listed are not stocked, or they're out of stock indefinitely.

... The UNCA Club is merely a sandwich bar. At certain times it is relatively quiet and not a bad spot

to have a quick snack. The third floor cafe is essentially cafeteria food with a waitress, less variety, but a smaller, and more agreeable setting."

I have just learned that the UNCA Club's food serving may be eliminated by the Canteen Corp. unless more meals are purchased. They claim no profit is being made in the Club.

That Newsstand
Let's say it is a disgrace, this little alcove Newsstand on the first floor is not large enough to accommodate the reading needs of the personnel of the over 150 nations who are members of the UN. Nor the high Secretariat headquartered in the building. You cannot for instance purchase any black newspapers distributed in New York or nearby. These include the *Black American*, *The New York Voice* and the *Amsterdam News*. There are no African, Caribbean or Third World newspapers or periodicals.

Like everything else, the Western media dominate and thereby distort the status, achievements and needs of the under-developed. This little old newsstand seems a ploy in controlling news flow in favor of the West.

I would urge that the Department of Press and Information of the UN conduct a serious survey of the Missions, the Departments in the Secretariat, and among the special agencies to ascertain the reading desires of those people. I am sure they will find out that this newsstand is not presently meeting this demand.

Politics on Press Space
Several months ago, I criticized the Press and Public Information Department for playing favorites with rooms and desk space for correspondents. Although Zionist publications have more than their share of such space, very little if any is afforded black journalists. Yet, the black press in America constitutes the staunchest support for the UN.

There are many old timers who occupy private rooms in the Press Section who have not published in months, if not years.

Further, UNCA members are favored over non-members. I am not a member and neither do I desire to belong, nor will join.

Recently I wrote also that with the new cafeteria, the old area, plus other rooms allotted to food service and now closed, should be converted into private or semi-private space for news people.

Certainly, the UN needs all the coverage possible — and ill treatment of the smaller sectors of the press in deference to the big media is definitely counter productive.

The "New Media Order" should begin at the UN Headquarters.

Cashing a \$25.00 Check

For years as a courtesy to the diplomatic corps, members of the Secretariat, the press, etc. — the bartenders of the UN could cash a check up to

\$25.00. Foolishly, the franchise operator, the Canteen Corp., has snuffed out this courtesy.

Surprisingly, there have been few, if any, bounced checks in this accommodation. Yet, with years of tradition in this courtesy, a convenience is being destroyed.

I would urge the reinstatement of cashing the \$25.00 check. It will save embarrassment for those who want to purchase refreshments for their friends and themselves.

Parking
The Department of Traffic of New York City, evidently prodded by Mayor Edward Koch's hatred of the UN, expends a goodly portion of its staff writing tickets for cars with DPL plates. This is a waste of time.

The UN has grown and parking space in its huge garage under its complex is now too small. I would urge the UN Development Corporation to build parking space for UN diplomats, personnel and visitors nearby.

No place to park inhibits good will for the UN.

The Informants
Agents, informants and just plain spies abound at the UN. You can smell them a mile away. Some are bold and unapologetic. Others are more low key. Some have listening devices disguised in fountain pens, eye glasses etc., and in sophisticated and hidden apparatus.

The fact is how they downgrade the UN often reporting false information to their governments or the agents for whom they work.

They get in the UN as official members of the Missions, with soft jobs in the Secretariat, members of the press and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Many of those "buck for hire" opportunists inform for South Africa, MOSSAD, KGB, the CIA and other intelligence bodies. They are against us blacks and the Third World.

They do no good for the UN as those informants are the lowest breed of people.

Guns
The UN is the most greatly protected of institutions. New York's finest (police) are always outside. Intelligence officers (legitimate) also operate in and outside the gates. The UN has its own plain clothes people. Together, this makes for a formidable protective operation.

Therefore, I am appalled at the display of guns on the hips of the UN Security Officers. Of all places, the toting of guns demeans the UN; back-up units seconds away could always be available with guns. But, outward display of deadly weapons distorts the image of UN peace.

Those at Fault
For the many reasons enumerated here on UN imperfections, blame has to go to Mr. Yasushi Akashi, Under Secretary General for Public Information; Mr. Clayton Timbrell, Assistant Secretary General for General Services; Mr. Allen Robertson, Chief, Commercial Management Service, and Mr. Paul Gates, Manager, Canteen Corp. Chief Santarelli also needs to take another look at his policies.

A Conclusion
The UN is an effective organization. The new Secretary General needs all the goodwill he can muster. So far his achievements are nil.

Morale of his staff is very low. Funding by Members States is being cut back.

To be successful, he must correct things within his house. The above are obviously in need of attention.

Letters to the Editor...

Evening Diploma Program

Thank you for the *Times'* excellent coverage of the Evening Diploma Program at Southern High School. Your newspaper's story was a comprehensive, people-filled interpretation for our community.

Dr. Yeager requested that I also share his appreciation

J. Carlton Polk
Special Assistant to the Superintendent
for Community Education
and Social Services

IMF Loan to South Africa

Now that the November elections are over, the American electorate must continue to be ever vigilant in sending strong messages to the President and elected House and Senate representatives.

One such issue is the recent International Monetary Fund loan to the racist South African regime which has a bloody record of gross human rights violations.

South Africa, facing a serious balance of payments crunch as a result of declining gold and diamond prices, was forced to request another loan from the IMF. The Reagan Administration supported the loan request.

It is important to note that South African membership in the IMF is becoming an increasingly political issue. A November, 1981 UN General Assembly resolution called on the IMF to consider expelling South Africa.

Technically, any member country using funds in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the IMF may be denied access to financial resources. In 1976-77, however, the Fund loaned \$464 million to South Africa, a sum which may have increased the ability of the minority regime to mobilize its forces to crush the Soweto uprising. The \$1.1 billion requested this time equals exactly the increase in South Africa's military expenditures from 1980-82.

Write to the President and members of the House and Senate to object to your tax dollars being used to support the apartheid regime. Instead, the U.S. should use its influence to dismantle South Africa's racial exploitation and military aggression.

And...

Several House Armed Services Committee members have urged the Navy to permit U.S. Navy ships to dock at South African ports for shore leave. *The Department of Defense should hear that there is strong opposition to this idea.*

Eight members of the House Armed Services Committee made this recommendation to Navy Secretary John Lehman in a letter this spring. Their letter was a result of a visit to South Africa in May as part of a trip to the Middle East and Africa concerning the Rapid Deployment Force. The delegation claimed in its trip report that South African government officials with whom they met assured them that black American Navy personnel would be treated as "honorary whites" while on shore leave in South Africa. The U.S. Navy has refused to use South African ports for shore leave since 1967, when it learned that shore leave entertainment for 3800 crew members of the USS Franklin Delano Roosevelt, some 200 of whom were black, was to be segregated.

Please write to the Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20310, with copies to Senator Charles Percy, 4321 Dirksen, Washington, D.C. 20510 and Senator John Tower, 142 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

- Leonard E. Bodrick
Transafrica Action Alert Coordinator
2nd Congressional District
Durham, N.C.

ADJACENT TO RTP
3 mins. RTP—7 mins. Durham—
12 mins. Duke

**Century Oaks
Apartments**
IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

- 2, 3 Bedrooms
- Fireplaces in Townhouses
- Energy Efficient Features
- Up to 2 1/2 Baths
- Jogging Trail
- 10 Apt. Designed for the Handicapped
- Draperies
- Washer/Dryer Connections
- Pool & Club House
- Private Patio/Balcony
- Tot Lots
- Indoor Handball
- Racquetball Facilities

Model Open Daily
Monday-Friday 9-6 Saturday 12-4
4781 E. Cornwallis Road
Phone 544-1781 Today!

Smirnoff
VODKA

Give a taste of the finest.

NCCU Alumni Meeting December 17,
7:30 p.m. 6112 Yellowstone Dr.