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THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Western Cape Branch

Annual Report 2006

December 2005– November 2006

YEAR IN REVIEW (Peter Soal)

We have been fortunate in having a number of Head Office personnel visit the branch during the year to address meetings and to assist with our activities. For this we are most grateful.

The annual SAIIA Western Cape Interschool Quiz was held for the fourteenth time and proved, once again, to be a great success.

A varied programme of meetings, with a good mix of speakers, provided for an interesting and active year.

BRANCH COMMITTEE MATTERS (Peter Soal)

Martha Bridgman stepped down as Chair of the branch after a three year period in office during which time our activities in the region were considerably expanded. Martha has a particular interest in education and contact with the universities intensified and greater contact with young people was made. In addition, members meetings under her guidance flourished and membership improved. We are grateful to her for her energetic stewardship of the affairs of the branch during these past few years.

I took over the Chair earlier this year on the understanding it would be for a short period only. Members are encouraged to actively canvass possible committee members with a view to assuming the Chair when I step down in March and to fill other vacancies.

Ada Watson has done a sterling job with the School's Quiz but has had to resign from the committee due to her other commitments. She will be sorely missed and we are actively and urgently looking for a replacement.

Brian Hardie is finding his business commitments will unfortunately preclude him from offering himself for re-election to the committee.

Danga Mughogho will complete his assignment at UCT early next year and will move on to other activities, leaving a further vacancy on the committee.

I am sure the membership will join me in expressing grateful thanks to all the branch committee members for the time and effort they have expended throughout 2006 on behalf of the Institute's Western Cape branch.

ADMINISTRATION (Peter Soal)

Mrs Pat Benbow-Hebbert, branch secretary, continues to play an important role in our activities and manages the administrative role, both for branch meetings and for the Interschool Quiz. Branch communications are handled efficiently by email saving a great deal in postage.

Mrs Lidia Hall is our bookkeeper and writes up the minutes of our meetings. Both activities are undertaken efficiently and effortlessly.

On behalf of the branch I express our appreciation for a year of dedicated service from both Pat and Lidia.

Meetings continue to be held at the Centre for the Book, which is becoming a popular venue for a wide range of gatherings and receptions.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES (Martha Bridgman and Peter Soal)

The following events comprised our programme of activities in 2006.

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| 9 February 2006 | Address by Dr Romuald Szuniewicz, Amb of Poland to South Africa, on 'Poland Today.' |
| 22 February 2006 | Address by Michael Power, Investec Financial Analyst, entitled: 'Sleeping Tiger, Leaping Dragon?' (or, Comparing India and China). |
| 14 March 2006 | Address by Vice-Admiral Martyn Trainor, on 'Martinus – Slow Military Maturation,' a semi-autobiographical survey of South Africa's military development during the period 1962-2004. |
| 20 April 2006 | Address by Tim Hughes, SAIIA Parliamentary Research fellow, entitled 'From Ramallah to Jerusalem: Implications for Peace in the Middle East.' |
| 10 May 2006 | Address by Ambassador Tom Wheeler, former SA Ambassador to Turkey, on 'The New Great Game in the Caspian and Central Asia.' |
| 14 June 2006 | Address by Ms. Sue van der Merwe MP, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on "Multilateral diplomacy - the search for greater equity, representivity and balance in the global exercise of power". |
| 21 June 2006 | Address by The Hon. Carolina Barco, Colombian Foreign Minister on "Latin American Integration" within the context of a political sea-change on that continent – with a number of left-leaning governments coming to power, most notably recently in Bolivia. |
| 19 July 2006 | Addresses by Professors Heribert Adam and Kogila Moodley on 'SA Lessons for the Elusive Peace in Israel/Palestine' |
| 14 August 2006 | Address by Mr. Eddie Cross on "The outlook and prospects for Change in Zimbabwe"? |
| 21 August 2006 | Address by US Senator Barack Obama on 'New Threats and New Promises in the 21 st Century' |
| 19 September 2006 | Address by Mr. Steven Gruzd on "The African Peer Review Mechanism: Where are we now, and where are we going?" |
| 19 October 2006 | Address by Dr. Petr Kopecký, Bradlow Fellow on 'Party Patronage: South Africa in Comparative Perspective' |
| 16 November 2006 | Address by HE Eric M Bost, US Ambassador to South Africa on '2006 US Midterm election Post-mortem' |
| 23 November 2006 | AGM and address by Mr. Moeletsi Mbeki, National Deputy Chairman of SAIIA on "South African Business Looks North - What Lessons Learnt?" |

FINANCE (Lidia Hall)

The financial resources of SAIIA Western Cape Branch have been fairly stable this year. The increase in membership fees and good response in payments from individuals and family membership has resulted in an additional R3 193 fee income. Thank you to the many members who have paid their subscriptions so promptly. "Matching funds" grants received from Jan Smuts House in October 2005 and March 2006 have greatly helped to keep the

finances stable. The financial statements presented to this meeting have been prepared by myself and signed by Mr. Karl Stulpner. We thank him for offering his kind service.

The 2006 interschool quiz expenses were higher this year than in previous years but were totally covered by sponsorship. We thank Caltex, the branding sponsor, for its strong support and continuing interest in this popular event. Other additional financial support for the quiz came from The Abe Bailey Trust, Anglo American Chairman's Fund, Maskew Miller Longman, Pick 'n Pay, Pick 'n Pay Family Store and Shoprite. Our sincere thanks go to each of these sponsors.

MEMBERSHIP (Brian Hardie)

SAIIA Western Cape Membership Figures for at October 2006, 2005 and 2004			
Category	2006	2005	2004
Company Nominees	10	10	17
Corporate	7	7	8
Diplomatic/Consular	52	49	12
Educational/Institutional	15	16	14
Family/Donor	20	20	25
Fellow	1	1	1
Honorary	1	1	1
Individuals	62	80	77
Members of Parliament	72	54	67
Students	31	70	27
TOTAL	271	308	249

(Non-paying categories are Fellows, Honorary & MP's. Nominees and Corporates are members of the Institute Nationally.)

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY (Rob Mackay)

Contact with the diplomatic community in Cape Town remains strong. Newly arriving diplomats continue to participate in our meetings. The Chair & Diplomatic Liaison addressed a meeting of the Consular Corps to better publicise SAIIA WC events among diplomats, with the secondary goal to strengthen communications regarding visiting dignitaries who may be appropriate guest speakers for the branch. We look forward to further cementing the growing links with the Diplomatic Community in Cape Town.

SCHOOLS (Ada Watson)

This year saw the 14th Annual Caltex/SAIIA Quiz on International Affairs, held at the Nassau Centre in Newlands.

This event, sponsored by Caltex is aimed at stimulating the interest of young people in International Affairs. Questions are taken from the Cape Times, which is distributed for 3 weeks prior to the event to all schools as well as 2 issues of the SAIIA Foreign Policy Monitor, thus ensuring that all participants have equal opportunity to prepare.

35 Teams, each consisting 4 members, from schools across the Peninsula and as far as Stellenbosch, Somerset West and Paarl took part and were encouraged by close to 200 supporters who filled the auditorium to capacity. The Quizmaster was Radio Personality Jerome Topley, who expertly managed the hotly contested event. This year saw the introduction of a debate component, in which students were tasked with speaking on the pros or cons of nations dealing in 'carbon trading' to reduce the effects of harmful emissions on the environment globally.

The team of Paul Roos Gymnasium beat La Rochelle Girls' High School to first place by a mere 1.5 points. Third place was taken by Rondebosch Boys' High School and Westerford High School was a close fourth. The winners took away the Caltex Floating Trophy and a R4 000 cash prize. Each participating team was presented with a certificate of participation and a set of books courtesy of donors from the publishing world.

Once again our thanks goes out to Pat Benbow-Hebbert, Lesley Houba and the many volunteers who assisted us in making this a very special evening for all the participating teams and their supporters.

The feedback from one of the team members from Rylands High school reiterates our goal: "Gaining more knowledge. Knowledge is power, after all! This quiz made me realise how important the world is and how ignorant some of us are when it comes to international issues"

It is gratifying for a voluntary organisation to work with business in reaching out to young people – we look forward to next year's quiz. "

UNIVERSITIES (Martha Bridgman)

Despite being closed out of Orientation Week recruitment as a non-university society, SAIIA WC's outreach to universities was sustained over the past year, greatly aided by two committee members (Alex Benkenstein and Danga Mughogho) assisting at the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Cape Town, respectively. In October, speaker Petr Kopecky addressed noon time seminars at both of these campuses on 'Party Patronage: South Africa in Comparative Perspective.' A SAIIA WC sponsored bus provided transport for several UWC students, to include them in the Stellenbosch Kopecky event. Earlier in the year, Ambassador Tom Wheeler addressed students at UWC for a comparative governments lecture, speaking on 'The New Great Game in the Caspian and Central Asia.' Transport continues to be offered on a limited basis for students to attend the branch meetings, subsidised by a Jan Smuts House matching funds grant for diversifying branch membership.

Publications (Danga Mughogho)

At meetings we make available to members various SAIIA publications. Titles range from SAIIA Reports to SAIIA Trade Policy Reports, Country Parliamentary Reports and various books. Student members are encouraged to use SAIIA publications stored at the Centre for the Book for their academic research. We hope to have more overstock from Jan Smuts House available for distribution to members in the new year.

Conclusion: (Peter Soal)

The branch continues to offer quality programmes and to diversify its membership across the spectrum. However, vacancies in the branch committee this coming year will present challenges and could affect the level of activity. Members are therefore urged to actively seek out suitable replacements and to bring them to the attention of the Chair or the Secretary.

We express our appreciation for the Jan Smuts House matching funds grants, which have allowed the branch to concentrate on programmes rather than to agonise about membership income. This support is greatly appreciated.

Peter Soal Chair, SAIIA Western Cape 23 November 2006

ELECTION OF WESTERN CAPE BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following is the proposed slate for 2007.

Peter Soal	Chair (through March 2007 only)
John Watson	Vice-Chair
Martha Bridgman	Universities Liaison
Chris Inskip	Technical Support Portfolio
Rob Mackay	Diplomatic Liaison
Sheila Camerer MP	Parliamentary Liaison.
Danga Mughogho	Students-UCT & Publications Portfolio
Alex Benkenstein:	Students-Stellenbosch.
Lidia Hall	Bookeeper
Pat Benbow-Hebbert	Branch Secretary. Tel: 794 5480, email: pbhebbert@mweb.co.za