



THE SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Western Cape Branch

Annual Report 2007

December 2006– November 2007

BRANCH COMMITTEE MATTERS (Martha Bridgman)

Peter Soal stepped down as Chair of the branch as of May this year, following an active year of programming, for which the branch can thank him. As no new chairman had been identified by the branch committee by July, I returned to the role, as acting chair, until such time as a suitable new chairman could be found.

Chris Inskip stepped into the gap to offer logistical support for branch activities, and has taken a great deal of the organising responsibility from the chair role, save the identification of speakers. I would like to express my thanks to him, and to the other members of the branch committee who have pulled together to see that branch activities carry on.

During the year, Carol Martin was co-opted onto the branch committee and has taken up the responsibility of heading up the Caltex/SAIIA WC Interschool Quiz. We welcome her to the committee.

Although meetings in 2007 were fewer than in past years, due to both escalating costs and to the hiatus in chairmanship, the branch committee is determined to maintain the high quality of the SAIIA Western Cape programme. I believe that you will find, in the ensuing report, evidence that we as a committee have done just that, and have also been actively addressing the challenges facing the branch as we adjust to the context in which we now operate.

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs Pat Benbow-Hebbert, branch secretary, continues in this key administrative role for Branch matters. She has, however, resigned from administration of the Interschool Quiz. We thank Pat for the years of support she has lent the quiz committee, seeing the quiz develop from small beginnings to its current state as a highlight on many a school calendar. She will be greatly missed in that role.

Mrs Lidia Hall's bookkeeping services, delivered most efficiently and graciously, are also greatly appreciated.

We will undertake a review of administrative and communication procedures with a view to keeping costs at a sustainable level.

Meetings continue to be held at the Centre for the Book, and we thank the staff there for their valued co-operation and the discount that we continue to enjoy as a not-for-profit, public service organisation. There was some effort to try new venues this past year, to save on venue hire costs, with limited success.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES (Peter Soal and Martha Bridgman)

The following events comprised our programme of activities in 2007.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 19 February 2007 | A "Fireside Chat" at the Cape Town Club, co-hosted with the Club and the Swiss Embassy. Swiss State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael Ambühl, spoke on "Switzerland's Foreign Policy, its Principles and Application thereof in Sub-Saharan Africa" |
| 20 February 2007 | Address by Aziz Pahad on 'SA's role in the Security Council.' |
| 14 March 2007 | Address by Planning Commissioner Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia of India, co-hosted with the High Commission of India, on 'Can Economic Growth Solve World Poverty?' |
| 16 April 2007 | Address by Peter Willis on 'Climate Change: How to Understand it, How to Respond.' |
| 25 April 2007 | Panel Discussion at UCT on 'Experiences of Democratisation in East Asia and Southern Africa', with Prof DWF Huang, Dr N Thabchumpan, and Dr P Strand. |
| 21 August 2007 | Tony Leon MP spoke on 'Where in the world is South Africa? My perspective of our foreign policy shifts.' |
| 29 August 2007 | Address by Amb David Shinn and Mr Joshua Eisenman on 'Understanding China-Africa Relations'. |
| 11 October 2007 | Tim Hughes spoke on 'Blood Diamonds - Mission Accomplished or Mission Impossible?' |
| 3 December 2007 | AGM and Address by Dr William Byrd of the World Bank on 'Responding to Development Challenges in a Conflict-Affected Situation: Lessons from Afghanistan, 2002-2007.' |

FINANCE (Lidia Hall)

The fee income for this year looks low but due to the subscription statements for 2006/2007 going out early in June 2006, about R5 560 had been received in June 2006 for the 2007 year. In the past no accruals had been made for fees at the year-end so I have kept this practice consistent. Due to the lower fees income shown the loss for the year is not realistic. Thank you to the many members who have paid their subscriptions so promptly. The financial statements presented at this meeting have been prepared by myself and signed by Mr Karl Stulpner. We thank him once again for his kind service. "Matching funds" grants received from Jan Smuts House in August 06 and May 2007 have greatly helped the finances. This support from Head Office is greatly appreciated.

The 2007 interschool quiz expenses were totally covered by sponsorship. Once again we owe Caltex, the branding sponsor, a great debt of gratitude, for its strong support and continuing interest in this popular event. Also additional generous financial support for the quiz was given by Toyota Claremont, The Abe Bailey Trust, Anglo American Chairman's Fund (ex SAIIA HO), Maskew Miller Longman, Pick 'n Pay and Pick 'n Pay Family Store. Our sincere thanks go to each of these sponsors.

WEBSITE (Chris Inskip)

SAIIA Headquarters, at Jan Smuts House in Johannesburg, continue to provide valued support by providing a page for the Western Cape Branch on their website (www.saiia.org.za). This page contains information on past and upcoming Branch activity, and makes Branch documents (Annual Reports, membership application form) available for downloading.

MEMBERSHIP

SAIIA Western Cape Membership Figures for at October 2007, 2006 and 2005			
Category	2007	2006	2005
Company Nominees	10	10	10
Corporate	6	7	7
Diplomatic/Consular	50	52	49
Educational/Institutional	14	15	16
Family/Donor	24	20	20
Fellow	1	1	1
Honorary	1	1	1
Individuals	79	62	80
Members of Parliament	70	72	54
Students	38	31	70
TOTAL	293	271	308

(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. Our seminar programme was enlivened by several interesting speakers generated from our links with the Consular Corps. Newly arrived diplomats participate in our meetings. We plan to address a meeting of the Consular Corps to better publicise SAIIA WC events among diplomats, and to maintain 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.

PARLIAMENT (Sheila Camerer)

During the past year SAIIA WC sent notices via email (where made available) to MP's regarding some of the meetings – particularly where relevant to MPs' work – such as Mr Ahluwalia, MP Tony Leon and Ambassador David Shinn. There was also an effort to update the membership list following the last elections, and to

invite membership – so far with less success than hoped for but we shall persevere!

SCHOOLS (Grace Daniels and Carol Martin)

2007 marked the fifteenth year of the Caltex/SAIIA Interschool Quiz: a contest geared predominantly towards testing the knowledge of the participating teams in international affairs. Once again the event was held in May at the Groote Schuur High School's Nassau Centre. Questions were based on material featured in the Cape Times over a period of three weeks prior to the Quiz, as well as on articles from the November 2006 and January / February 2007 editions of SAIIA's Foreign Policy Monitor. Once again this year, the co-ordinating role of Pat Benbow-Hebbert was vital in its organisation. Quiz Master this year was John Maytham of Cape Talk Radio.

Thirty five teams, totalling 140 learners from schools across the Cape Peninsula travelling from as far afield as Paarl and Khayelitsha, were entered in the contest. The final results were: 1st place: La Rochelle Girls' High; 2nd place: Paul Roos Gymnasium; 3rd place: Diocesan College School, and sharing 4th place, Alexander Sinton and SACS. The winner took away the Caltex Floating Trophy and R4000; 2nd prize was R2000 and 3rd prize R1000. No participants however went away empty-handed, as each team took away a selection of books for its school library.

Of note was the determination of Intlanganiso High School, which participated, despite the theft of its fax, vandalism of its telephone-line and bereavement, which resulted in their team comprising of 2 instead of 4 team members. Noticeable too was the presence of Langa's "2nd team" in the audience: this smartly-dressed under-study group of four, were there to learn the ropes for next year. The School Quiz expects to expand its schools participation in 2008 to 50 schools with encouragement from the Caltex sponsors and more involvement of the Department of Education in logistics.

UNIVERSITIES (Martha Bridgman)

SAIIA WC's outreach to universities was sustained over the past year, with the help of two committee members (Alex Benkenstein and Danga Moghogho) assisting at the University of Stellenbosch and the University of Cape Town, respectively, by making sure that events are publicised. Tim Hughes spoke to students and staff on 'Blood Diamonds: Mission Accomplished or Mission Impossible?' at both Stellenbosch and the University of the Western Cape during the year, and was well received in both instances. One challenge in attracting student members to branch functions has been competition from the increased academic offerings in international relations on campus. 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)

The branch stores a collection of overrun publications from Jan Smuts House at the Centre for the Book for the benefit of branch members. This means we are able to offer these publications at most meetings free to paid up members of SAIIA Western Cape.

Conclusion: (Martha Bridgman)

SAIIA Western Cape has over the past year maintained its record for offering quality programmes to generate awareness and discussion of issues important in South Africa's international affairs. However, due to inflationary pressures, affecting budget and membership, and due to the fact that volunteerism is increasingly rare, the committee does face challenges that must be addressed in the coming year – not least, the identification of a new Chairperson to take on the leadership of this branch. Members are invited to step forward with any suggestions in meeting these challenges in 2008.

Martha Bridgman_ Acting Chair, SAIIA Western Cape 3 December 2007

ELECTION OF WESTERN CAPE BRANCH COMMITTEE:

The following is the proposed slate for 2007.

Martha Bridgman	Acting Chair and Universities Liaison
Rob Mackay	Diplomatic Liaison
Sheila Camerer	Parliamentary Liaison
Carol Martin	Schools Liaison (Quiz Committee chair)
Chris Inskip	Technical Support/Logistics Portfolio
Danga Mughogho	Students-UCT & Publications Portfolio
Selvin Daniels	Students – UWC
Alex Benkenstein:	Students-Stellenbosch.
Martyn Trainor	Membership Portfolio
Lidia Hall	Bookeeper
Pat Benbow-Hebbert	Branch Secretary.