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BRINGING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES TO FUTURE LEADERS

Kamal unlocks “secrets of the UN”

IPD reporters get an exclusive interview with the Ambassador

By LUKE ZAMMIT AND
COLLIN BOCKMAN
International Press Delegates

“What the UN needs isn’t UN reform, it’s US reform,” said Ambassador Ahmad Kamal in tonight’s keynote speech, although he may deny it.

Kamal addressed the suggestion that the UN is broken but we can’t do without it. One of the points Kamal stressed is that while the UN has its problems, it’s all the world has. He went on to say that the importance of the UN comes from the fact that it is as close to establishing multilateralism as the people of the world have gotten thus far, even if it is ineffective in many ways.

“It kind of hit home,” said Representative David Squires of the Syrian Arab Republic. “We have to be honest with ourselves and with each other.”

Kamal stated that he believes the UN to be, in many ways, quite ineffective in its current form. As an example of UN futility, Kamal cited the continued existence of the now-useless Trustee Council, whose purpose was completed in the early ‘90s. He also mentioned that the UN still lists three states as enemies, including Germany, Italy and Japan.

Kamal argued that the reason the UN has not updated such data is because they would have to open the UN charter for amendment, allowing members to question certain controversial aspects of the UN.

“We are supposed to promote democracy, not permanence,” he said. He also mentioned how detrimental the idea of permanent members can be, saying they possess an “attribute of God.”

Several delegations were both upset and embarrassed by the Ambassador’s remarks, especially the US. After consulting

See Page 2 for editorials regarding Ambassador Kamal’s Speech



with other US representatives, Permanent Representative Allison Shepard of the United States said “On behalf of the United States delegation, I would like to express our discomfort with the remarks made by tonight’s keynote speaker,” adding that several members of the US delegation were embarrassed when the room erupted in applause following some of Kamal’s

more critical statements. As indicated by this applause, many representatives appreciated Kamal’s criticism. “We did agree with his stabs at the aggressive policy of the US,” said Representative Travis Burton of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

Representative Steven Loftus of Germany had a different problem with Kamar’s speech, calling it “a vacuous argument.” Loftus says Kamal offered no answers to the problems he brought up.

Kamal congratulated all the AMUN representatives on their enthusiasm and commitment to the UN, qualities he believes many actual UN representatives lack.

Despite his criticism of the UN, Kamal still believes that the organization is necessary. “The power of the UN is that it is better to dialogue than to go to war,” he said in a later interview. “That is the very essence of the UN.”

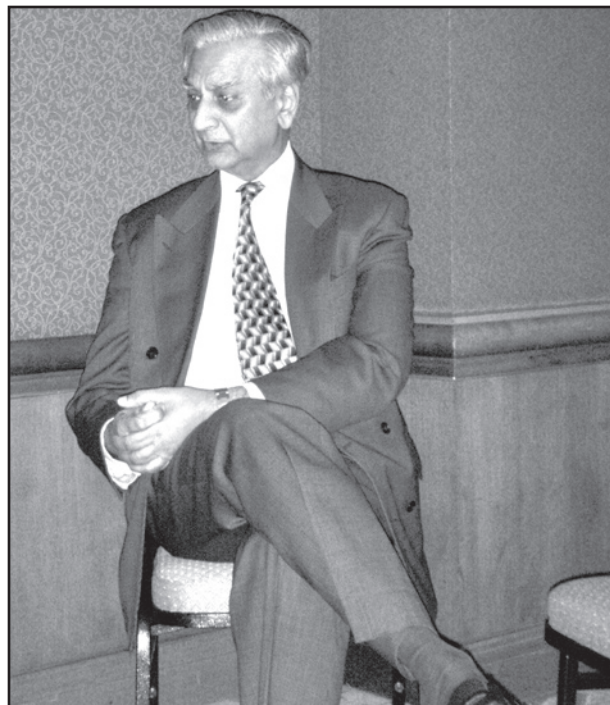
“You are the luckiest people in the world you have the opportunity to put things in order.”

Ahmad Kamal
Former Ambassador to the UN

Right: Kamal sits in an interview with IPD Reporters

Above: Ambassador Kamal thanks Brian Endless, Executive Director of AMUN for his commemerative polo

Pictures courtesy Brandon Huffman



1st Impressions: Fun and Formal

By OLIVER BARANCZYK, ERICKA GALINDO AND NATASHA WASINSKI
International Press Delegates

What are your thoughts on the order of the agenda? How about the role of urbanization? These questions were thrown in the faces of Representatives the minute they stepped into the world of AMUN 2005. While many delegations seem prepared to shoot back with solutions, most were still trying find their hotel rooms.

Representatives arrived from cities as close as St. Louis and as far as Taipei; some came as early as yesterday and others walked in 30 minutes before Opening Plenary Session began. Ambassador Kamal said the AMUN was already starting to function just like the UN, noting the 15 minute late start of the session modeled the tardiness of the UN.

At first it feels awkward to address people in a formal way or make a motion in the correct manner but these soon will be regarded as trivialities once representatives become familiar with the process and people. The seriousness is only a façade because beneath the formalities of the conference, representatives attend out of a desire to meet others, learn, and have fun.

The hustle and bustle can be overwhelming, especially for rookie representatives, but that just adds to the camaraderie between representatives during caucusing.

The country’s best graduate schools place advertisements in the conference program Representatives wear their finest suits and pumps, and delegations are well-aware of the importance of their simulated representations of Member States. At this conference, there are high expectations for everyone involved.

On the surface it seems as if the simulation will not make any difference outside the Sheraton Hotel, but AMUN creates an atmosphere that allows representatives to understand how the United Nations operates.

Enjoy it and try to have fun, it isn’t your job (yet).

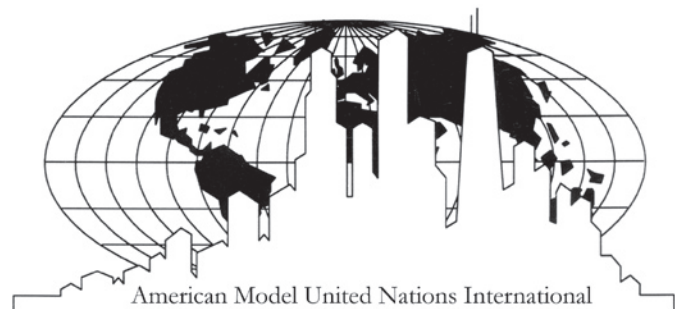


WHAT WILL AMUN DISCUSS NEXT YEAR?

The United Nations agenda covers hundreds of issues each year. Ever wonder how AMUN decides which issues to put on the agenda? Do you have a burning issue that you want to recommend for next year’s agenda? Then come to the Committee on the Agenda meeting and contribute your suggestions for topics to be discussed at the 2006 AMUN Conference.

The Committee on the Agenda will meet on Tuesday, 21 November at 11:00am in the Michigan Rooms.

It is highly recommended that each school send a representative to this important meeting. The AMUN Secretariat looks forward to your participation.



American Model United Nations International

Help the Secretariat Decide which issues to discuss at AMUN Next year

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Credentials Must be worn at all times while in hotel. Please remove when leaving the hotel.

- Smoking is only permitted outside the hotel.

- Diplomatic Courtesy Please turn off pagers and wireless phones off and mute your laptops.

-For your enjoyment, and in the spirit of diplomatic courtesy to other guests of the hotel, the Waves Lobby Bar area (Lobby Area) is available for you to caucus and socialize beginning 10:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

-For information on what there is to do in Chicago, please visit Conference Services.

The AMUN Embassy Ball



Don’t forget to ask that special someone to be your date by using a Chronicle Personal Ad

She’s obviously never been to an AMUN dance

10:00pm Monday
Chicago Ballrooms
VIII-X

FORMAL DRESS ATTIRE WELCOME