

# The Briefing

*A Newsletter of The Alabama World Affairs Council / Fall 2003*

## **This Fall: Ambassador Bruce Laingen on Iran, PDAS Charles Snyder on Africa, Sir Eldon Griffiths on Europe**

**Ambassador Bruce Laingen**, who served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and in the U.S. Foreign Service from 1949 to 1987, is currently the President of the American Academy of Diplomacy in Washington. He will open the season for the

**SEP 30** Alabama World Affairs Council when he speaks on September 30.

After 38 years of brilliant service to his country, he is perhaps best known by the general public for the 444 days he spent (with 52 others), as the senior U.S. diplomat in Tehran, as a hostage to Iranian revolutionaries who took over the U.S. Embassy on November 4, 1979. For his service in this episode, he was awarded the prestigious Award for Valor by the State Department.

Remember the Desert One tragedy in the Iranian desert, the failed rescue attempt in April 1980? Remember the nationwide mania for yellow ribbons tied around trees or lamp posts by citizens waiting for the return of the hostages? That was started by Ambassador Laingen's wife, named, aptly enough, Penelope, and celebrated in popular song. Ambassador Laingen's book *Yellow Ribbon: The Secret Journal of Bruce Laingen*, was published in 1992.

After his release, Ambassador Laingen served as Vice President of the National Defense University (home of the National War College) in Washington until his retirement. He was Executive Director for the National Commission on Public Service (the Volcker Commission) until it finished its work in 1990.



His earlier tours of duty with the Foreign Service included assignments in Germany, Iran, Pakistan, and as Ambassador to Malta.

In addition to the Award for Valor, he holds the Distinguished Public Service Medal from the Defense Department, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from St. Olaf College (where he received his bachelor's degree), the Golden Plate award from the American Academy of Achievement, a Presidential Meritorius Award, and the Foreign Service Cup. He earned a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Minnesota.

**Charles R. Snyder**, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, will speak to the Council on October 28. In 2001, he began serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary and concurrently as Director of the Office of Regional Affairs in the Department of State. He was promoted to Principal Deputy in June 2003.

A career Africanist, he served on the National Intelligence Council at the CIA as National Intelligence Officer for Africa from 1992 until 1995.

**OCT 28** He provided advice to State's Africa Bureau on military matters. He worked tough problems in Angola, South Africa, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Sudan, Congo and Rwanda.

Mr. Snyder retired from the U.S. Army in 1991 after 22 years of service. During these years, Col. Snyder was responsible to the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for



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Operations for Military training and assistance programs throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Morocco, Israel and Egypt. He served as an analyst in the Defense Intelligence Agency, and for the Army. Assigned to the State Department in 1985 as an exchange officer, he served as military advisor to the Africa Bureau until retirement.

Mr. Snyder received a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Fordham University, a Master of Business Administration in International Finance from American University, and performed additional post-graduate work in International Relations at Catholic University. He is a Fellow of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society and a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer of the Foreign Service Institute. He has authored numerous articles on African matters.

**Sir Eldon Griffiths**, who will speak to us on November 18, is currently President of the World Affairs Council of America. He spoke to the council in 2000 and is still the highest rated speaker we have ever had.



Born in England, educated at Cambridge and Yale, Sir Eldon was elected in 1964 as Member of Parliament for the Conservative seat of Bury St. Edmunds.

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He served as chairman of the Polish, German and Iranian sub-committees of the House of Commons' Foreign Affairs committee and led parliamentary delegations to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and New Zealand. For four years he was a delegate to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and West European

Union in Paris. He served for 17 years as advisor to the British police.

After assisting two Prime Ministers prepare their speeches, Griffiths was named Minister of Sport and Under Secretary of State at the world's first government Department of the Environment. He helped set up the U.N.'s environmental agency; pioneered legislation on water engineering and transport; represented his government at international conferences in Brussels, Washington and Moscow. When Margaret Thatcher became leader of the Conservative party he was appointed as her party's spokesman on European and NATO issues. He was knighted by the Queen in 1988.

Sir Eldon began his career in California as a Time and Life correspondent covering the departure of the U.S. Marines for Korea. Later, as Chief European Correspondent and Foreign Editor for *Newsweek*, he reported on crises in Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East, covered the Bay of Pigs operation against Cuba, landed in Jordan with the British parachute brigade, and was held prisoner by the Russian Army in Budapest. He was *Newsweek's* Editor in New York in his 30s and Managing Editor of its European and Pacific editions.

Now living in Laguna Niguel, California, Sir Eldon is Chairman of the Korea-America Friendship Society of Southern California and holder of the Gold Medal of Honor of the Republic of China, Taiwan.

He will speak on the relationship between the U.S. and Europe.



In second row, Charlotte Mussafer, Maj. Gen. Will Hill Tankersley, and Debbie Vogelgesang listen intently to Korean Ambassador Yang Sung Chul. In front row at right is Margaret Carpenter, AWAC vice president.

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## **Board Member Profile: Margaret Carpenter**

Among the many outstanding citizens serving on the Alabama World Affairs Council's Board of Directors, Vice President Margaret Carpenter has established a record of accomplishment in Montgomery without parallel. In addition to being a gracious, talented, and attractive lady, she has been a force for good in this community for many years.

Margaret was born and raised in Birmingham and was graduated from the University of Alabama with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. She moved to Montgomery after the death of her husband, Buford Morris, to operate Composit, the business they began together in Tallassee. They had three sons: Buford Jr. (Grits), Dan, and Andy. Grits and Dan live and work in Montgomery, while Andy is a physician in Birmingham.

In 1966, Margaret married Charles Carpenter, an internationally known expert in wood and forestry. (Charles passed away in 1991.) In 1976, she started Montgomery's Jubilee Weekend, serving as its chair for 15 years.

She is currently serving her second six-year term on the Montgomery County School Board, where she was elected chairman (the term she prefers) for two years. She was the first woman chairman of the Committee of 100 (previously called The Men of Montgomery) and the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce. A graduate of both Leadership Montgomery and Leader-

ship Alabama, she has also served as the president of the Montgomery Area United Way and the Executive Committee of the Alabama Shakespeare Theater. She is a retired director of the Alabama Power Company, the first woman to so serve.

She is currently a member of the board of Voices, COSBE, HIPPIY, School to Career, Second Chance, the Metro YMCA, Partners in Education, and the Central Alabama Girl Scouts, and also is on the executive committee of the Business Council of Alabama.

Her many honors include the Small Business Administration's 1985 Small Business Person of the Year for Alabama and her 1986 selection as a Advertiser/Journal Woman of Achievement. In 1989, she was selected as Montgomery Citizen of the Year.

The World Affairs Council is indeed proud to have Margaret Carpenter on our board.

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## **Five New Board Members Take Office**

Five members of the AWAC Board of Directors, who have served the Council well over the last several years, have regrettably come to the end of their time on the board, Emerson Johnson and Rick Zehrer moved away, Steve Fought came to the end of his term, and Charles Hubbard and Laurie Weil resigned for personal reasons. All will be missed.

With the departure, the Executive Committee unanimously elected a strong slate of replacements: Bowen Ballard, CEO of the Ballard Companies and recently retired Major General in the Air Force Reserve; Mike Jenkins, CEO of Jenkins Brick Company; Will Sellers, attorney with Balch and Bingham; Alex Whaley II, CEO of Whaley Construction Company in Troy; and Ann Williams, community leader, also from Troy.

The board reelected the current slate of officers: Lt. Gen. Charles Cleveland president, Margaret Carpenter vice president, Nan Rose secretary and MaryAnne Douglass treasurer.

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## **Membership Healthy, Finances Cloudy**

Last year's programs and final membership levels were some of our best ever. However, AWAC's financial picture was still "partly cloudy with occasional rain."

Two facts are clear: We ended up in the black, but we spent more than we took in and had to dip into our reserve funds. The final figures for the program year show that total

income was \$28,748, including a \$2,000 grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, vs. total expenditures of \$31,621. The \$2,873 shortfall was covered by a beginning cash balance of \$9,902, leaving a cash balance of \$7,029 on September 2, 2003. The message is obvious: We need to make management and financial adjustments.

## Executive Director's Corner: Dr. James Nathan

*Editor's Note:* The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the board of directors of the Alabama World Affairs Council

Members of AWAC will find that much of our program concerns will be with Mid-East and North Korea. Policies toward both are now being rethought in Washington.

In the case of Iraq, Secretary Powell and Gen. Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs worked in tandem to change the policy.

Secretary Powell first enlisted U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. After a late August lunch, with most of Washington and New York on vacation, Annan announced, "The best feasible option [for Iraq would be] a multinational force under U.S. command."

A few days later, Powell's Senior Deputy endorsed a larger role for the U.N. in a speech. The White House seemed stunned.

Then the military's Joint Chiefs made a move. Next, the British quietly joined in. It was a remarkable, well-orchestrated campaign. And it worked. Suddenly, President Bush changed course.

Not just a little helpful to Powell was the brute fact that the cost of the war has rocked Congress. The cost of the military occupation is running nearly \$4 billion a month, almost as much as the cost of combat. Reconstruction might add another \$2 billion a month. Seventy per cent of deployable U.S. forces are in Afghanistan, Iraq and the former Yugoslavia, missions without exit.

All this helps explain the sudden

wooing of the U.N. But the civilians in the Pentagon are fighting back. The go-it-aloners point out that a U.N.-sponsored presence would allow nations with an anti-American agenda to undermine the U.S. vision of a democratic pro-American Iraq. The more unencumbered the U.S. is, the higher the probability of success. Maybe.

A similar tale unfolds more slowly and less dramatically in the case of North Korea. The administration has moved from not wanting to talk to Pyongyang at all, to engagement along with some of North Korea's neighbors.

First, the administration said it would not cut any deals until North Korea disarms. Now Washington quietly expresses an interest in a deal that unfolds simultaneously with North Korea opening itself to inspections. The cost here too is going to be high. A multibillion dollar program of aid and reassurance will be offered. Wisely, Japan, Russia, China, and South Korea were called to the table from the onset. The cost of a seat will be some kind of contribution to the final deal.

When President Bush pulled the rug out from under the policy of engagement pursued by the South Koreans, the administration espoused something of a stop-gap policy of confrontation, implied in January 2002 when President Bush placed the North Koreans at the far end of

the "Axis of Evil." Meanwhile, the North Koreans mustered fissile material, gave the boot to U.N. inspectors, and started talking about testing nuclear weapons, a threat that seems credible. The U.S. was left with either the prospects of a much more costly war than Iraq or the administration could cut a deal. The choices were much the same as Clinton faced in 1994, and the outcome is likely to be a more verifiable version of the agreement worked out then by Amb. Bob Gallucci (who has spoken to our council twice).

No doubt the U.N. would have had trouble in Iraq if we had invited them in early on. But there is also no doubt that since the mid-1990s, the U.N. has had an impressive string of successes, with American behind-the-scenes leadership, in places like Bosnia, Kosovo, Cambodia, and even in Liberia. (The Liberian effort was assisted by another former AWAC speaker, Amb. Jacques Klein, now the Senior U.N. officer in Liberia.)

On a different note, the Washington meeting of the World Affairs Councils of America is fast filling up. This year's theme is Europe, and Donald Rumsfeld leads a luminous cast of speakers. There will be lunches and dinners at glamorous embassies and some opportunities to meet with headliners.

If you want to go this year, please call me as soon as possible. (Late news: the conference is full.)