

SUMMARY REPORT
by Colonel (Ret) Alfred FULLER, Rapporteur General
on
THE WORKING SESSIONS OF THE
PEACE AND SECURITY SUMMIT
(Stockholm, 28-30 May 2013)

1. The Swedish Veterans Federation hosted the International Peace and Security Summit on 28-30 May 2013 in Stockholm, Sweden, at the invitation of Major Ola Nilsson of the Swedish Army and under the aegis of the President of the World Veterans Federation,

OPENING OF THE SUMMIT

2. The opening ceremony was held on 28 May 2013 at 18:00 at Fotografiska Museum.
3. At 18.45, greeted by Mr. Bengt Wiktorsson, President of the Swedish Federation of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Hamid Ibrahim President of the World Veterans Federation and Dan Viggo BERGTUN Chairman of the Summit, His Royal Highness Prince Carl Philip of Sweden made his formal entry into the conference room at Fotografiska Museum .

WORKING SESSIONS OF THE SUMMIT

4. The working sessions began on May 29 and ended on May 30 2013 in the conference room of the Clarion Hotel Stockholm under the direction of Mr. Dan Viggo Bergtun, Chairman of the Summit, alongside whom were Mr. Hamid Ibrahim, President of the WVF and members of the WVF Executive Board.

DESIGNATION OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

5. Prior to the opening ceremony, Mr. Dan Viggo Bergtun, Chairman of the Summit, had already formed the Drafting Committee as follows:
 - Mr. Mohammed Benjelloun (Morocco, Secretary General of the WVF , Chairman
 - Colonel Alfred FULLER (Cameroon, member)
 - Major General Rainer FIEGLE (Germany , member)
 - Dan Viggo BERGTUN (Norway, member)
 - Mrs. Martine FORT (Executive Director)

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

(Speeches are available from the WVF Secretariat on request)

A- Speech of Mr. Hamid Ibrahim President of the WVF

6. The President welcomed the participants and gave a definition of the words peace and security. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the concept of of security was initially interpreted as security from external aggression, or as protection of national interests in foreign policy, or as global security from the threat of a nuclear holocaust.
7. With the end of the Cold War era, many conflicts were within nations rather than between nations. Based on these findings, the UNDP had recently changed the concept of security in two basic ways: Firstly, from an exclusive stress on territorial security to a much greater

stress on people's security; secondly, from security through armaments to security through sustainable human development.

8. In accordance with its Credo, the WVF had always said that veterans who had experienced the horrors of war were the best people to speak about peace. How could veterans contribute to peace? The President stated that he would leave it to the participants to answer this crucial question during the Summit.

B- Speech of Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun, Vice President of the WVF

9. By way of introduction, the Chairman of the Summit, Dan-Viggo Bergtun, said he was extremely pleased to welcome the delegations present at the first Summit of the World Veterans Federation on Peace and Security in Society.
10. Continuing his remarks, he paid tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Carl Philip , for the support given by the Swedish Veterans Federation and thanked Mr. Bengt Wiktorson and his team for the tremendous work done in connection with the Swedish Armed Forces for the preparation of the Summit. He also thanked the Swedish Government for its support, as well as all of the veterans and non-governmental organizations that had contributed to the success of the event in the city of Stockholm, capital of Sweden.

PRESENTATIONS BY KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

(Texts of the presentations are available from the WVF Secretariat upon request)

11. Two speakers, invited for their skills and experience, were asked to talk to the participants on the topic: "**How can veterans contribute to peace and security in society?**" The speakers were:
 - Mr. Hans Blix , Swedish diplomat and former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), former Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1978 to 1979;
 - Mr. Jan Egeland (Norway), Deputy Executive Director of Human Rights Watch and Director of European Operations .

The two speakers talked to the participants on the proposed topic and answered the questions and comments which followed.

INTERVENTION OF MR. HANS BLIX

12. Mr. Blix noted that veterans have a broad and varying experience from the field and that Governments and the public need to hear directly from them – what they did, what they think was achieved – and not achieved – at their places of action, what they think can be learnt, corrected and improved..
13. The first lines of the Preamble of the United Nations Charter state: "**We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war**".
14. Mr. Blix said that he saw no mission in the world that was more important and that he was optimistic that it could be fulfilled - even in this century.
15. In Africa, many borders are not firmly or clearly defined; others due to their porosity, become sources of conflict. We regularly observe carnage generated by selfishness, ambition and

refusal of dialogue between leaders, thus pushing the peace and security of peoples to the background.

16. If the veterans who were formerly allies or enemies and know the horrors of war, which have come together today, despite their differences, to stand up for peace, do not assume their responsibilities as peace messengers, they will have failed their mission to as advisors to governments in the rules of internal and external conflicts.
17. For UN operations respect for the laws of war and human rights in armed conflicts is particularly important. Good knowledge about the rules must be part of the training of all troops that are acting for the international community and it is the duty of all in command to ensure respect. The greatest mission of the UN is to seek to eradicate the 'scourge of war' and to maintain or restore peace and security. Where the organization is forced, itself to engage in armed actions it must still do its utmost to uphold humanism.

INTERVENTION OF MR. JAN EGELAND

18. Jan Egeland thanked the organizers of the Summit for choosing him to talk to the participants on a topic that was particularly important to them: **"How veterans can contribute to peace and security in society"**.

In this regard, he addressed the audience on the following topics:

- violations of human rights in the world;
 - the development of real national wealth over 40 years ;
 - the development of freedom in the world from 1973 to 2010;
 - the waning of war (reduced number of deaths in combat per 100,000 habitants);
 - the deadliest month for civilians in Syria;
 - the spiral of violence and toxic tanneries ;
 - the location of countries in the world that have signed and ratified the ICC Statute as well as those that have signed but not ratified;
 - maintaining pressure on a notorious war criminal;
 - intersection or interference of international organized crime and instability ;
 - the number of disasters ;
 - the number of displaced people from 2008 to 2010 .
19. According to Jan Egeland, terrorism had become a real threat that international organizations and governments should pay particular attention to. It nourished the interests of government policies, radical groups who want to impose their ideologies or interests such as Mali, Niger and the Sahel to name a few. The speaker sought to highlight the victims of terrorism and the violence perpetrated against people which were:
 - fear, torture , rape , starvation;
 - mass displacement;
 - hostage taking.
 20. In his conclusion, the speaker stated that he believed that despite the progress made in Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, tens of millions of civilians were still in distress around the world. Whether in Darfur or Gaza, whilst the number of conflicts had declined by 40 % since 1989, violence against non-combatants had in turn increased by 55% between 1989 and 2005, the most significant increase having been observed over the past five years.

OTHER SPEAKERS

21. Other speakers who took the floor were:

- Allan WIDMAN member of Swedish parliament
- Dorijan MARSIC of Slovenia, member of the ITF (Organization for the Improvement of Human Security)
- Dragomir VUCECIVIC of Serbia.

They all followed the direction of Mr. Dan Viggo BERGTUN, Mr. Hans Blix and Mr. Jan Egeland. They said in substance:

- That they had been witness to various forms of violence and humiliation observed in the world;
- that veterans have extensive experience especially when the politics fails, whether it be in interstate conflicts or in internal conflicts;
- that all these problems were caused by the selfishness of leaders, the desire to dominate and preserve interests using unconventional methods;
- that negotiation is preferable to violence;
- the United Nations and the World Veterans Federation must put pressure on governments and those responsible for the violence.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

22. Participants requested that provisions on the need to protect civilians be systematically included in the mandate of peacekeeping operations of the United Nations, the, they also requested that there be mediation and goodwill missions, with which veterans would be associated.

23. Delegations were then invited to the official ceremony celebrating Swedish veterans Day".

CLOSING CEREMONY

24. At the closing session held in the conference room of the Clarion Hotel Stockholm in the afternoon of 30 May 2013 and chaired by Hamid Ibrahim, President of the WVF in the presence of all delegations, the Secretary General read and participants voted the resolution prepared by the Drafting Committee, a document entitled "Stockholm Declaration".

25. The President of the Federation thanked the Swedish Veterans Federation, the Swedish Armed Forces, the military authorities, the Government and His Royal Highness Prince Carl Philip of Sweden for the warm welcome and the special attention shown to the various delegations and the excellent organization of this Summit.

26. He also thanked all delegations for the seriousness they have shown and for their contributions and debates which had animated the working sessions. The adopted Declaration, he said, will certainly contribute to involving veterans in the peace and security processes throughout the world, for the benefit of people who live in oppression, suffering, and under the threat of conflict all kinds.

27. During the closing dinner, WVF medallions were presented to the panellists and some delegates. Each member of the Editorial Board received a souvenir plaque from Mr. Dan-Viggo BERGTUN, Chairman of the Summit in recognition of their contribution.