



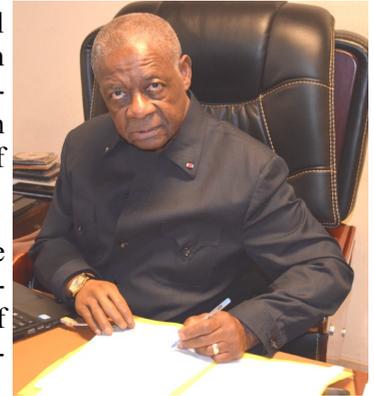
WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Editorial

I would like to publicly thank the WVF President and the Secretary General for inviting to write the editorial for this issue of the WVF Newsletter so that I can highlight the forthcoming 15th Meeting of the SCAA which will take place in Cameroon from 14 to 16 December 2016, and also for the support and trust they have both placed in the National Office of Veterans, Former Military and Victims of War of Cameroon to host this important meeting.

The veteran community in Cameroon, together with the public in general, are excited by this opportunity. It clearly demonstrates the political will of His Excellency Paul Biya, Cameroon's President, in his persistent quest for the well-being of the African veteran, specifically the Cameroonian, as well as the importance he attaches to stability, peace and security for the people of Africa.



Considerable work has already been carried out backstage by the hosts in conjunction with State officials in Cameroon and the WVF's Secretary General and his team in Paris. We are now anxious to welcome the Executive Board of the WVF as well as the country delegations from African Member Associations, and other observers. This landmark Meeting, the first in eight years, marks a new era for the Standing Committee on African Affairs in the search of peace in Africa and in raising awareness and recognition of the value and contribution of all African veterans; often forgotten or misunderstood in the rewriting of the pages of Africa's history.

This Meeting will be taking place amidst a backdrop of tension which persists in certain regions of Africa, shaking social peace. Since the 28th General Assembly in Sopot (Poland) last year, the world, and notably Africa, has been tormented by a rise in terrorism activity. In addition, we have witnessed devastating natural catastrophes at regular intervals as well as global migration, much caused by conflicts and unstable governments. All of these events have a great impact, directly and indirectly, on the veteran community.

The 15th Meeting of the Standing Committee on African Affairs comes at the perfect moment. This is a moment in which Africa, at a crossroads, must come face to face with these challenges and with it, the Veterans' world. Our unique position as veterans and United Nations Peace Messengers obliges us to ensure that the Meeting in Yaoundé is a conducive framework to seek peaceful solutions and improve living conditions for veterans. I am confident that our solid values, links of goodwill and the sharing of experiences between delegations will ensure a successful outcome to this Meeting.

We thank you in advance for all the support and encouragement that you have given us to ensure that the meeting in Yaoundé is a great success in the profit of peace worldwide and particularly in Africa.

With every best wish,
Col.® Alfred Fuller
WVF Vice President

15th Meeting of the Standing Committee on African Affairs

You can find all documents and information concerning the 15th Meeting of the Standing Committee on African Affairs at the following address:

<http://www.wvf-fmac.org/new/index.php/events-en/15th-meeting-of-the-standing-committee-on-african-affairs>





WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION WALK FOR PEACE 2016

“Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.” - Albert Einstein

The United Nations' International Day of Peace is marked and celebrated on 21 September each year. Its purpose is to call upon all warring parties to put down their arms and observe a worldwide cease fire for 24 hours. The symbol of a day with no fighting is an important reminder that conflicts can, and must, come to an end. During September 2016 many Members Associations of the World Veterans Federation took up the challenge to organize a Walk for Peace and other ceremonies in towns and cities worldwide. This Walk for Peace is a way of recalling that "None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war".

This year the focus of the International Day of Peace was on the relationship between peacemaking and the International Development Goals (IDGs) which seek to reduce and eliminate global poverty and degradation, often a significant factor in conflict. This theme was reinforced by the following message from Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations: *“Let us all work together to help all human beings achieve dignity and equality; to build a greener planet; and to make sure no one is left behind.”*

Some of these Member Associations have sent us photographs or anecdotes of this symbolic day; these include, among others, the Veterans Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Association of Palestinian Revolution Ex-Warriors (APRE), the Cyprus Veterans Association World War II. The Association of Ethiopian Patriots advised that their programmed Peace March had to be cancelled in the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances beyond their control. Their President assured us that they will conduct a Walk for Peace next year – we wish them success.

WVF Member Associations in Slovenia

In Ljubljana, representatives from ITF – Enhancing Human Security - joined members from the WVF’s four Member Associations namely; the Federation of Disabled War Veterans Associations of Slovenia, Sever Association of Police Veterans Societies, Union of the Associations for the Values of the National Liberation Movement of Slovenia and the Association of Veterans of the War for Slovenia. The ITF were presented with the WVF Rehabilitation Prize which was awarded to their organization at the 28th WVF General Assembly held in Sopot (Poland), for their remarkable work in the rectification of the problem of land-mines and in the aid given, over several decades, to survivors of land-mines with physical and socio-economic rehabilitation, across the South-Eastern Europe region.





Veterans Association of the Republic of China (VAROC), Republic of China on Taiwan



A considerable crowd took over Taipei, capital of ROC on Taiwan, on the occasion of the WVF Walk for Peace.



Representatives from our Member Association were present, including Vice President of the WVF and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Asia and the Pacific, Lt. Gen. Frank Kao (*photo on right—third from left*)

Association of Palestinian Revolution Ex-Warriors (APRE), Palestinian Territory



In Ramallah, administrative capital of the Palestinian Authority, crowds formed in the streets to take part in the WVF Walk for Peace.



Numerous Projects lead by the Veterans League of Portugal

As a very active Member Association to the World Veterans Federation, the Veterans League (Portugal) has been organising some important projects for several years. Despite their dwindling resources and a continued reduction in government support, the Association has developed a “Solidarity Programme” which consists of constructing living quarters for the most deprived veterans. Two of these living quarters were opened in 2015, providing more than 100 veterans with a living space of their own.

The Association has also continued to develop its “Healthcare Programme” through the Centre for Studies of Medical, Psychological and Social Support for Veterans (CEAMPS). These centres supplied 12 000 free medical consultations last year, of which, 4 000 were for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The Veterans League is also very active in the duty of remembrance. It works hard to maintain the many military graves where Portuguese soldiers are buried, whether they may be in Portugal, or around the world (Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, France, Belgium). The Association also makes great efforts to be current with the younger generations, notably through its programme of “Transmission of Knowledge to Younger Generations”. By organising conferences in schools and military units, the Association promotes a world of peace and security. The Veterans League also published 23 books about foreign wars in Africa lead by Portugal from 1961 to 1974 through its programme entitled “The End of an Empire”.

Thanks to all these projects and accomplishments, the President of the Veterans League, Gen. Chito Rodrigues, was awarded the Order of Avis by the former President of Portugal, in recognition of his many years of devotion and engagement for Portuguese veterans, with a special mention for the support given to veterans with health problems.



Gen. Chito Rodrigues (left), next to former President of Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva (right) at the ceremony for the awarding of the Order of Avis.

WVF News in Brief

The WVF Executive Board and Secretariat would like to send all of our best wishes to Mrs. Faye Purcell, Executive Assistant of the WVF, as well as her husband for the birth of their daughter on 5 September 2016. We wish them bountiful happiness in this new, marvelous adventure.

12 July 2016 – In Zabljak, North-Eastern Montenegro, WVF President, Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun, attended the Regional SCEA Working Group on South-Eastern Europe, organised by the Union of Associations of Veterans and Antifascists of Montenegro. The Working Group’s Chair, Prof. Ljubomir Sekulic decided to step down from the role, citing his advancing age and local responsibilities. We would like to thank him for his tireless work for veterans in the region. Mrs. Silva Cernugelj from Slovenia has been proposed as the future Chair.



August 2016 – During a personal visit to Berlin, WVF Secretary General, Lt. Col. Joseph Falzon, met with his friend and colleague, Maj. Gen. Rainer Fiegle, Rapporteur of the SCEA and President of the Advisory Council on Reserve Activities for the Reservists Association of the German Armed Forces.

2 – 4 September 2016 – WVF President, Mr. Dan-Viggo Bergtun, took part in the 8th International Meeting of the Blue Berets in Brno, Czech Republic. While there, he took the opportunity to attend the International Conference “Current Security Situation”. During this trip, the President was able to meet representatives from WVF Member Associations such as the Association of Czechoslovak Legionnaires and the Czech Veterans’ Association.

