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Independent Diplomat Communiqué – Fall 2008

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Independent Diplomat (ID) is the world’s first non-profit diplomatic advisory group, with five offices located strategically in diplomatic hubs. Staffed by former diplomats and other experts in international relations, ID advises and assists governments and political groups to engage effectively in diplomatic processes.

Fall 2008 news

ID assists Northern Cyprus as UN-led talks resume

Following the resumption of UN-led talks on Cyprus, ID has stepped up its work advising the leadership of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TNRC) on the complex set of issues under negotiation, in particular EU relations and the implementation of a future comprehensive settlement. Contact project leader **Nicholas Whyte** in Brussels at nicholas.whyte@independentdiplomat.org.

ID appoints new UN Representative

ID’s new UN Representative, **Dean Bialek**, joined us in September 2008 from the Australian foreign service, serving most recently as adviser on economic and environmental affairs and law of the sea at Australia’s Mission to the UN in New York. Dean worked previously at the World Trade Organization, Melbourne University Law School and as a consultant to various NGOs, including IUCN. Dean directs our work on Western Sahara and the ‘Universal Right of Address’, and is currently exploring a new project on climate change.

ID advocates transparent and inclusive UN Security Council

In March 2008, ID launched its first advocacy project – the ‘Universal Right of Address’ – proposing that all parties to disputes on the Security Council’s agenda be allowed to address it, either in person or in writing. In allowing those most affected to put their views and explain their circumstances, ID’s proposal would make for better informed decision-making and allow direct conversation between Council members and the parties involved. ID’s advocacy of the ‘Universal Right’ was cited recently in the Security Council by Dutch Ambassador to the UN Frank Majoor. Contact project leader **Dean Bialek** in New York at dean.bialek@independentdiplomat.org.

ID opens at African Union

ID has appointed its first representative in Africa, based at the home of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. **Sigurd Illing** has extensive experience in African affairs, having served in seven African countries over three decades for the European Commission, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the German Technical Cooperation. Contact Sigurd in Addis Ababa at sigurd.illing@independentdiplomat.org.

ID receives charity status in the US and UK

ID is pleased to announce it is now has charitable status in the UK and 501(c)(3) – tax-exempt non-profit – status in the US. Donations to ID in either country are now tax-deductible. For more information, contact our development director **Heather Troup** at heather.troup@independentdiplomat.org.

Soren Jessen-Petersen launches ‘Flight and Freedom’

Head of ID’s Washington office, **Soren Jessen-Petersen**, has launched *Flight and Freedom*, a new book traversing 30 years of diplomatic experience on the political and humanitarian frontlines. From Africa to the Balkans through Burma and Colombia, the book recounts political failures and the forgotten crises that languish for years behind the media and strategic policy spotlight. Soren is currently working on the English version.

ID seeks Burma consultant

We are urgently seeking an experienced policy consultant to assist our Burma project, where ID advises the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB). Candidates must be able to prepare complex policy papers, and be available immediately for 6 months or more. If interested, please contact project leader Soren.Jessen-Petersen@independentdiplomat.org.

Recent Press Coverage of ID and Staff

[Carne Ross quoted on problems at United Nations](#), *Financial Times*, 23rd September 2008

[Carne Ross response to Francis Fukuyama](#), *Financial Times*, 5th September 2008

[Carne Ross reviews *New World Disorder* by David Hannay](#), *New Statesman*, 4th September 2008

[Carne Ross reviews *Terror and Consent* by Philip Bobbitt](#), *New Statesman*, 19th June 2008

[Edward Mason at Frontline Club debate on "Somaliland-Getting it Right in Africa"](#), *Frontline Club Debate*, 11th September 2008