

OCTOBER 24TH – UNITED NATIONS DAY

International Kerner

Center for International Social Work Studies

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Student Profile

Paul Assante-Yeboah is a 1st year student with major in Policy Planning/Community Organization. He earned a bachelor's degree in Social Science (B.A.) from the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana- west Africa. His Social Work interest actually began during his National Service Program in 1998 when he was assigned to community service. In the course of his work he came into contact with World Vision International at Suhun.Kraboah-Coaltar in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Most of the activities done at the community level were education on health and self-group programs. Hence his involvement in social work education. His main interest revolves around community development and especially in health care. Advocating on behalf of communities to get basic amenities like hospitals or clinic schools, portable water and good sanitation are his primary concern. Paul is a married man with no children at the moment.

Do you know that...

Formed from the merger of the British colony of the Gold Coast and the Togo and trust territory, Ghana in 1957 became the first country in colonial Africa to gain its independence. A long series of coups resulted in the suspension of the constitution in 1981 and the banning of political parties. A new constitution, restoring multiparty politics and democracy , was approved in 1992. The president is chief of state and head of government. In December 2000, John Ku Fuor of the New Patriot party won the presidential election. He became the first elected president of Ghana to succeed another elected president. The People's convention Party is the main opposition party. The voting age is 18. Ghana is divided into 10 regions and 110 administrative districts. Although funding is controlled by the central government, these local districts have authority over education, health, agriculture, and social welfare. Ghana's economy is based primarily on agriculture, which engages more than 50 percent of the labor force. (Culturgram '98/U.S. State Dep. Background Note).

Why October 24th?

On October 24th of 1945, the Charter of the newly formed United Nations Organization took effect. This occurred when the majority of countries involved in the signing the treaty, including the "Big Five" nations ratified the Charter. Since that time October 24th is marked as the United Nations day.

Purpose of the United Nations

Among becoming the center for harmonizing the action of nations in achieving international peace and security, the many purposes of the U.N. are: to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, to cooperate in solving international economic, social cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The structure of the organization

Six principal organs were established: General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice and Secretariat. The U.N. , however, consists of 15 agencies and several bodies. Among them are the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Children's Fund). Kofi Annan of **Ghana** is the current Secretary General.

Security Council About to Vote on Iraq

The them of this year's UN Day on October 24 is *The Role of the United Nations in Combating Terrorism*. It is striking that the UN Day will fall during this week when the UN Security Council is likely to vote on the Resolution on Iraq. After the Gulf War, the UN imposed sanctions on Iraq including the sending of weapons inspectors into the country. The Resolution is likely to demand resumption of weapons inspection without restrictions plus elimination of any "weapons of mass destruction." Negotiations have been underway to determine whether the resolution will contain threat of military action for non-compliance, as the U.S. wishes.

What is the Security Council?

The Security Council is charged with maintaining peace and security and investigating situations that might lead to international friction. There are 5 permanent members: the U.S., United Kingdom, France, China and Russian federation. On key matters, all 5 permanent members must agree (the so-called veto power) along with at least 4 other members. The other 10 member countries are selected for two-year terms. Current members are: Mauritius, Norway, Singapore, the Syrian Arab Republic, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Columbia, Guinea, and Ireland.