

**UNIC-ACCRA BRIEF REPORT ON 2005**  
**COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL**  
**DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS**

The Ghana Armed Forces and the Ghana Police Service on Sunday, May 29 2005, organized a flag-raising and a wreath-laying ceremony to mark this year's International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers at the Cenotaph at the Independence Square, Accra.

UNIC-Accra worked closely with the two bodies making available to them SG's message for the occasion to be included in the programme for the ceremony. The Centre provided the UN and Ghana flags for the flag-raising and made available to the Acting UN Resident Co-ordinator, Dr. Melville George, SG's message which he presented at the function. The same message was distributed by the Centre to participants at the function including the media and the diplomatic corps. The media in addition received background materials on peacekeeping and on the observance.

Four contingents of seven officers and 140 men and women from the Ghana Army, Navy, Air Force and the Police formed the parade with the Central Band of the Ghana Armed Forces providing music. Others at the ceremony were service commanders, officers and members of the Ghana Armed Forces and Police Service, members of the diplomatic corps, the media and the general public. The Reviewing Officer was the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr. William Ofori Boafo.

Five wreaths were laid. The first by the Reviewing Officer was on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana. The second by the new Chief of Defence Staff, Major-General J. B. Danquah, was on behalf of officers, men and women of the Ghana Armed Forces while the third was by the Acting UN Resident Co-ordinator on behalf of the UN. The next wreath was laid on behalf of officers, men and women of the Ghana Police Service by the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. B. G. Dery. The last wreath was laid by Mrs. Doris Akaba on behalf of families of soldiers who have lost their lives at various peacekeeping missions. The gathering observed one minute silence for the fallen soldiers while a selected team of the central band sounded the last post for them.

The ceremony received good publicity from the local print and electronic media.