



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACEKEEPERS 2005 UNIC Moscow

On 30 May 2005, the UN Information Center in Moscow organized at our premises "a five o'clock" ceremony with a guest of honour in the person of Ms. Zoja Zarubina, political scientist, vice-president of the International Movement "Teachers for Peace and Mutual Understanding", former teacher at the UN linguistic courses. She is a unique person, a witness of the genesis of the United Nations. Ms. Zarubina was a member of the Soviet delegation at the three major conferences in Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam, all of which were milestones in the creation of the United Nations.

The UNIC Director briefly spoke of the salient features of the UN peacekeeping today and introduced Ms. Zarubina. She dwelt on events dating back to 60 years from now, and specifically on the role of the three protagonists—Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill—as founding fathers of the world body. More than once did Ms. Zarubina stress that "horse-trading" and "understandings" were the key concepts at those historic meetings. Summing up, she made several rather lucid conclusions fully relevant to the UN today. For instance, our guest pointed out that the UN Charter remains the cornerstone of the collective peace and security, and should be dealt with very carefully.

Among the participants were correspondents from the Russian major news agencies—ITAR-TASS and Interfax, Editor-in-Chief of "Tvoje Vremia" ("Your Time") magazine, a lecturer from the Diplomatic Academy, representatives of the Russian civil society.

UNIC provided the participants with a set of information materials and publications including the Secretary-General's message on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers (in Russian), "Unprecedented Challenges Persist as UN Observes its Peacekeepers Day" (DPI press-release in Russian), "Year in Review 2004: UN Peace Operations" (DPI, in English), summary of the Secretary-General's "In Larger Freedom" report (DPI, in Russian), "UN Peacekeeping: Meeting New Challenges" (DPI, in English).

All in all, it was an original event and it provided a rare opportunity to learn first-hand about the history of the United Nations.