

Democratic Party Committee Abroad

Spring Meeting 2007

March 16-18, Heidelberg, Germany

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Democratic Party Committee Abroad (DPCA) was held at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut, Heidelberg, March 16-18, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 9:30am on March 16 by International Chair Michael Ceurvorst.

The national anthem was sung by John McQueen. The Bill of Rights was read by Kim Reed, Geoff Berlin, Thinh Nyguyen, Georgia McCauley, Jessica Bellas, Howard Feldstein, Doris Tolpen, Richard Kurtzman, Alana Mocerri and Carolyn Sauvage-Mar.

Welcome by Dr. Jakob Koellhofer, Director of the German-American Institute.

The Chair appointed Joe Smallhoover and Bill Barnard parliamentarians.

ROLL CALL

The International Secretary called the roll. The following country committees, international officers and DNC members were present in person, by remote link (telephone or Internet) or by proxy:

International Officers: Michael Ceurvorst, International Chair (outgoing)
Christine Schon Marques, International Chair (incoming)
Toby Condliffe, International Vice Chair (incoming)
Stanley Grossman, International Treasurer
Robert Checkoway, International Secretary
Joe Smallhoover, International Counsel
Leo Perez Minaya, Regional Vice Chair, Americas
Gary Suwannarat, Regional Vice Chair, Asia/Pacific
Meredith Gowan Le Goff, Regional Vice Chair, Europe/Middle East/Africa

DNC Members: Liv Gibbons
Leo Perez Minaya
(proxy from Robert Bell to Toby Condliffe)
(proxy from Brent O'Leary to Kristin Smeral)

Country Committees:

Australia	Gary Suwannarat (proxy from Mike Hettinger)
Austria	Kristin Smeral, Chair
Belgium	Amanda Klekowski von Koppenfels, Vice Chair
Cambodia	Gary Suwannarat (proxy from Ray Leos)
Canada	Toby Condliffe (proxy from Adrienne Jones)
Colombia	Robert Checkoway (proxy from Andrew Dier)
Costa Rica	Leo Perez Minaya (proxy from Ruth Dixon Muller)
Dominican R .	Leo Perez Minaya, Chair
France	Lois Grjebine/Susan Vaillant (proxies from Connie Borde)
Germany	Mitch Wolfson, Chair; Susan Haug, Vice Chair
Greece	Karen Lee (proxy from Beth Hondros)
Guatemala	Leo Perez Minaya (proxy from John Chudy)
Hong Kong	Jessica Bellas, Chair
India	Carolyn Sauvage-Mar, Chair
Indonesia	Gary Suwannarat (proxy from Arian Ardie)
Ireland	Liv Gibbons (proxy from Kate Fitzgerald)
Israel	Joanne Yaron, Chair
Italy	Anthony Sistilli, Chair
Japan	Kristin Smeral (proxy from Terri Macmillan) Donna DuCarme (proxy from Mike Stensrud)
Luxembourg	Christine Heinerscheid
Mexico	Howard Feldstein, Chair; Doris Tolpen, Vice Chair
Netherlands	Donna DuCarme, Chair
Norway	Donna DuCarme (proxy from Olee Olsen)

Panama	Leo Perez Minaya (proxy from Richard Koster)
Philippines	Georgia McCauley, Chair
Russia	Kim Reed, Chair
Spain	Alana Mocerri, Chair; Rich Kurtzman, Vice Chair
Switzerland	Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, Chair; David Freedman, Vice Chair
Thailand	Gary Suwannarat (proxy from Phil Robertson)
Ukraine	Geoff Berlin, Chair
UK	Bill Barnard, Chair; Margo Miller (proxy from Stephanie Stewart)

The following additional non-voting participants were present:

Appointed: Lindsey Reynolds, Executive Director
Positions: Sharon Manitta, International Press Secretary

DA members: Carolyn Abney (Italy), Randall Abney (Italy), Peter Alegi (Italy), Vivienne Beller (France), Angela Boskovitch (Germany), Rebecca Bowen Yobe (France), Robert Bragar (Netherlands), Doris Brodie (Germany), Sharon Bronzwaer (Belgium), Trenton Browne (Germany), Bill Bush (Austria), Ann Cacciari (France), Randy Caldwell (Germany), Gil Carbajal (Spain), Malcolm Carpenter (Germany), Michael Ceurvorst (Hong Kong), Cathleen Compton (Italy), Jon Cooper (France), Andrew Davis (Spain), Gilbert Doctorow (Belgium), George Durazzo (UK), Hugh Egerton (Germany), Lisa Finerty (Italy), Judy Ford (Netherlands), Louis Freizer (Belgium), Leslie Freschet (Spain), Dona Geyer (Germany), Alison Goeller (Germany), Kristi Green (Spain), Nancy Green (Germany), Thomas Grinwald (Germany), Arif Hamid (Germany), Elizabeth Holcombe (Italy), Rudy Howze (Germany), Ruth Jarabek (Germany), Henry Jensen (Germany), Joyce Jett (Switzerland), Charles Keene (Germany), Carol Kempe (Germany), Michael Lange (UK), Maria Lassila (Italy), Leslie Lee (UK), Marguerite Leitner (Germany), Eden Mack (Luxembourg), David Madden (Germany), Meryl Manigault (Germany), Anna Marie Mattson (France), Mary McCall (UK), Bill McQueen (Luxembourg), John McQueen (Germany), Faustina Mercado (Belgium), Margo Miller (UK), Barbara Mrozek (Germany), Amber Neal (Germany), Thinh Nguyen (Vietnam), Sudie Nolan-Cassimatis (Germany), Dennis O'Donohue (Germany), Christa Obersteiner (Germany), Beverly Olson Doppfel (Germany), Chris Palmer (Germany), Martin Potrop (Germany), Atambir Rao (Austria), Cynthia Rackles (Germany), Elsa Rassbach (Germany), Daniel Roy (France), Ben Sandidge (Germany), Sheila Sarem (UK), Laureen Scharps (Germany), Ronald Schlundt (Germany), Giuliana Schnitzler (Austria), Beverly Seebach (Germany), Chuck Smith (Germany), Katie Solon (Austria), Michael Steltzer (Germany), Abby Taubin (UK), Kiera Tchelisticheff (France), Shari Temple (Germany), Ellyn Toscano (Italy), Susan Vaillant (France), Rachelle Valladares (UK), Juan Verde (Spain), Lisa Villard (Austria), Harry Voss (Germany), Gretchen Wall (Germany), Randall Wall (Germany), Evelyn Walls (Germany), Henry Walls (Germany), Meredith Wheeler (France), Jo-Ann White (Italy), Heather Wokusch (Austria)

Special Guests: Mark Brewer, President, Assn of State Dem Chairs; Chair, Michigan Democratic Party
Christina Kraich-Rogers, Kucinich for President 2008
Elizabeth Kucinich, Wife of Rep. Dennis Kucinich
Patrick McCarty, Former Political Director, UAW
Parag Mehta, Director of Training, DNC
Juan Moscosos del Prado Hernandez, Member of Parliament, Spain
Phil Murphy, Finance Chair, DNC
Robert Wiedemer, Author, *America's Bubble Economy*

The International Secretary declared the meeting quorate.

It was moved and duly seconded to adopt the proposed agenda (see Appendix A). Motion carried.

ADMISSION OF DEMOCRATS ABROAD GUATEMALA

The International Secretary reported that Democrats Abroad Guatemala had met all the requirements for DPCA membership and submitted the required materials.

It was moved and duly seconded to admit Democrats Abroad Guatemala to the DPCA. Motion carried.

OFFICER REPORTS

International Vice Chair Christine Schon Marques summarized her report (see Appendix B).

International Secretary Robert Checkoway summarized his report (see Appendix C).

Donna DuCarme stated that based on her research the reported membership number for the Netherlands is incorrect, she chose not to formally challenge the number due to the narrow margin and the assurance that problems have been identified, will be addressed and this will not happen to another committee in the future.

International Treasurer Stanley Grossman summarized his report (see Appendix D).

EMEA Regional Vice Chair Meredith Gowan Le Goff summarized her report (see Appendix E).

Americas Regional Vice Chair Leo Perez Minaya summarized his report (see Appendix F).

Asia-Pacific Regional Vice Chair Gary Suwannarat summarized her report (see Appendix G)

Executive Director Lindsey Reynolds summarized her report (see Appendix H).

International Chair Michael Ceurvorst summarized his report (see Appendix I).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the DPCA Spring Meeting 2006 in Washington were circulated prior to the meeting,

It was moved and duly seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

REGIONAL VOLUNTEER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARDS

An as-yet-unpresented Volunteer of the Year Award for 2005 was announced for:
Asia-Pacific Mark Green, Ethan Schoonover and Brett Rierson (Hong Kong)

Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2006 were announced for:

EMEA Shari Temple (Germany)
Americas Beverly Bandler (Mexico)
Asia-Pacific Ruth McCreery (Japan)

Letters of appreciation on behalf of the outgoing ExCom are to be sent to: Alice Lauther, Tom Fina, John McQueen and John McCreery.

DNC REPORT

Liv Gibbons made a report on the recent DNC meeting on behalf of DA's eight DNC members. Their goal at that meeting was to get commitments from all of the candidates to do call-ins or videos for DA. All said yes personally, but follow-up with campaign staff is more difficult. DA's DNC members were joined at this meeting by Meredith Gowan Le Goff, Caitlin Buchman, Joe Green, Bob Bragar and Martha McDevitt-Pugh. Bob and Martha made a presentation to the GLBT Caucus on Love Exiles and the Uniting American Families Act. The resolution on the restoration of habeas corpus submitted by Democrats Abroad was adopted by the DNC.

COMMITTEE PANELS AND REPORTS

Judy Ford reported on the policy working group that was being headed by Rey Reimer.

Gary Suwannarat reported on VoteFromAbroad statistics for the 2006 election cycle.

Jon Cooper reported on the work of the IT Reference Group.

The meeting recessed for a conference call with Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Toby Condliffe reported on development and fundraising.

Sharon Manitta reported on communications and media.

Meredith Gowan Le Goff read a report from web editor Rhoda Green.

Randy Caldwell, Lauren Shannon, Kristin Smeral and Meredith Wheeler reported on the Grassroots Support Team survey.

Mitch Wolfson reported on marketing goals and planning.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON BYLAWS

Joe Smallhoover reported that new model bylaws are now included in the DPCA handbook. A model bylaw on chapter creation is being developed. The committee is proceeding with a review of all existing country committee bylaws.

DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN 2008

International Counsel Joe Smallhoover reported that DA's Delegate Selection Plan must be submitted to the DNC for approval on May 1. The first step of appointing an Affirmative Action Committee has been completed. It consists of Kelly Weiss (Hong Kong), Robert Bragar (Netherlands), Francisco Diaz (Dominican Republic) and Janice Mitchell (France). A draft DSP must be submitted for public comment for 30 days, and then the International Chair will submit a final draft to the DPCA for an electronic vote.

The DNC Call to the Convention gives incentives for a state party not to advance the date of its first determining step. In DA's case, if the first determining step is held in February or March, we would be allocated 22 delegates to the National Convention, as in 2004. If held in April, DA would be allocated an additional 2 delegates; if held in May, an additional 4 delegates. (Each DA delegate has a ½ vote.)

It was moved and duly seconded to take a sense-of-the-meeting vote on holding the first determining step on May 1. Motion carried. The sense of the meeting was negative.

The meeting recessed until Saturday morning, March 17.

ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

A Nominating Committee was appointed by the International Chair on January 12, 2007 consisting of Carolyn Sauvage-Mar (India), Susan Vaillant (France), Jo-Ann White (Italy) and Howard Feldstein (Mexico).

The Nominating Committee reported the following nominations on January 28, 2007.

International Chair: Christine Schon Marques

International Vice Chair: Toby Condliffe

International Treasurer: Stanley Grossman

International Secretary: Robert Checkoway

International Counsel: Joe Smallhoover

The floor was opened for nominations.

No additional nominations having been made, it was moved and duly seconded to close nominations. Motion carried.

It was moved and duly seconded to elect the slate by acclamation. Motion carried.

It was declared that Christine Schon Marques was elected to the position of International Chair, Toby Condliffe to the position of International Vice Chair, Stanley Grossman to the position of International Treasurer, Robert Checkoway to the position of International Secretary and Joe Smallhoover to the position of International Counsel.

The meeting recessed to hear from Elizabeth Kucinich and watch a video message from Gov. Dean.

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TIMING OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

The resolution is a bylaws amendment. See Appendix J. The floor was opened to discussion.

It was moved (Gary Suwannarat) and duly seconded (Robert Checkoway) to close debate. Motion carried. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RESTORATION OF HABEAS CORPUS

Connie Borde reported that the resolution was submitted to and adopted by the DNC with slightly different wording. The floor was opened to discussion.

It was moved (Meredith Gowan Le Goff) and duly seconded (Stan Grossman) to adopt the resolution as worded in the DNC version (see appendix K). Motion carried. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING TROOP BUILDUP

See Appendix L. The floor was opened to discussion.

An amendment was offered to change “will increase” to “is increasing” in the final whereas clause. The amendment was accepted as friendly.

An amendment was offered to delete “pitifully” in the 2nd whereas clause. The amendment was accepted as friendly.

*It was moved (Joe Small Hoover) and duly seconded (Meredith Gowan Le Goff) to table both this resolution and the **RESOLUTION ON CIVIL WAR IN IRAQ** (see Appendix M). The question was called and duly seconded. The motion carried.*

RESOLUTION ON PREVENTING MILITARY ATTACK ON IRAN

See Appendix N. The floor was opened to discussion.

An amendment was offered to add “from initiating, supporting or encouraging” after “or Israel in its behalf”. The amendment was accepted as friendly.

The question was called (Howard Feldstein) and duly seconded (Meredith Gowan Le Goff). The resolution passed.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PROACTIVE POLICY ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

A joint resolution was presented which could replace the two separate resolutions on the agenda. See Appendix O. The floor was opened to discussion.

It was moved (Meredith Gowan Le Goff) and duly seconded (Bill Barnard) to substitute this text for the two separate resolutions. The motion carried.

It was moved (Meredith Gowan Le Goff) and duly seconded (Susan Haug) to postpone consideration of this motion until 12:15. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

See Appendix P. The floor was opened to discussion.

An amendment was offered to replace “GHG” with “greenhouse gases”. It was accepted as a friendly. No further discussion. The resolution passed.

RESOLUTION ON ENERGY POLICY

See Appendix Q. The floor was opened to discussion.

It was moved (Geoff Berlin) and duly seconded (Donna DuCarme) to table the resolution until immediately after the Israel-Palestine resolution. Motion carried.

A resolution on **MILITARY AND VETERANS HEALTH CARE** was submitted by Gilbert Wells (Portugal) after the deadline for submission for this meeting.

It was moved (Stan Grossman) and duly seconded (Meredith Gowan Le Goff) that this body ask the DPCA Executive Committee to pass a resolution to this effect as soon as possible. The motion carried.

Two resolutions on the **GENEVA CONVENTIONS** and **HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE** were submitted by Carolyn Sauvage-Mar (India) after the deadline for submission for this meeting.

It was moved and duly seconded that this body ask the DPCA Executive Committee to pass resolutions to this effect as soon as possible. The motion carried.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE (CONTINUED)

At the appointed time, the Israel-Palestine resolution was taken from the table.

The question was called (Stan Grossman) and duly seconded (Joe Smallhoover). The resolution passed.

TROOP BUILDUP AND CIVIL WAR IN IRAQ (CONT.)

It was moved (Joe Smallhoover) and seconded (Toby Condliffe) to take these two resolutions from the table. Motion carried.

An amendment was offered (Amanda Klekowski von Koppenfels) to insert "and putting stress on neighboring countries" after "Whereas civilian refugees are currently fleeing Iraq in large numbers". The amendment was deemed hostile. It was withdrawn.

An amendment was offered (Donna DuCarme) to instead insert "with all ensuing political and humanitarian repercussions". It was accepted as friendly.

The question was called (Stan Grossman) and duly seconded (Bill Barnard). The resolutions passed.

ENERGY POLICY (CONT.)

It was moved and duly seconded to take the resolution from the table. The motion carried. The resolution was withdrawn to be referred to the policy committee.

The meeting recessed for a working lunch with a session on Challenges and Opportunities Facing DA lead by Kristin Smeral, followed by a call-ins from Barack Obama and Dennis Kucinich, a training session with DNC Training Director Parag Mehta and a call-in from Steve Robinson of AIGore.org.

NEXT MEETING

It was moved (Joanne Yaron) and duly seconded (Howard Feldstein) to hold a global meeting in the fall. The question was called (Meredith Gowan Le Goff) and duly seconded (Stan Grossman). The motion failed (32 aye, 36 nay).

It was moved (Caitlin Kraft Buchman) and duly seconded (Jessica Bellas) to hold regional meetings in the fall and a global meeting in the first half of 2008. No discussion. The motion carried (47.5 aye, 17 nay, 1 abstention, 2 spoiled ballots, 1 ballot submitted too late).

DELEGATE SELECTION PLAN 2008 (CONT.)

It was moved (Toby Condliffe) and duly seconded (Jessica Bellas) to hold the first determining step as early as possible on or after February 5th. The question was called (Stan Grossman) and duly seconded (Gary Suwannarat). Votes were cast by paper ballot.

The meeting adjourned until Sunday morning, March 18.

The results of the previous vote were announced. The motion carried (36 aye, 26 nay, 2 abstentions, 1 spoiled).

TREASURER'S REPORT (CONT.)

It was moved (Gary Suwannarat) and duly seconded (Joanne Yaron) to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING (CONT.)

It was moved (Joe Smallhoover) and seconded (Joanne Yaron) to defer a decision on the time and place of the next global meeting until the fall. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved (Mitch Wolfson) and duly seconded (David Freedman) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Appendix A

SPRING 2007 DPCA MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Exercises: National Anthem and Bill of Rights
3. Roll Call and determination of quorum
4. Vote on admission of any new committees
5. Officers' Reports
6. DNC Report
7. Committee Panels and Reports
 - a. Policy
 - b. Voting
 - c. Technology
 - d. Development and Fundraising
 - e. Communications and Media
 - f. Grassroots
 - g. Marketing
8. Standing Committee on Bylaws Report
9. Delegate Selection Plan for 2008 Convention
10. Introduction of Nominations Committee.
11. Election of International Officers
12. Consideration of Amendments to the By-laws (first readings)
13. Consideration of Resolutions
14. Date and Place of Next DPCA Meeting
15. Old Business
16. New Business
17. Adjournment

Appendix B

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL VICE CHAIR (Christine Schon Marques)

Since our last global and regional meetings, I've continued to focus on ways to increase our visibility, develop resources and build relationships.

Getting out the Vote

- Working with the VfA tiger team Mitch Wolfson, Margo Miller, Joe Green, and Jon Cooper to market www.VoteFromAbroad.org, exploring local, worldwide and on-line options given our resources. Successes included VfA links on a range of sites, google ads, and ensuring that a number of committees had funding for ad placements.
- Going forward, local buy-in and goal setting, timing, and on-going communication are all critical. Timelines and action requests need to be streamlined. Ideally, more information about the kinds of resources local committees need and different budget options would be available much earlier for planning.

Resources and Improved Communication

- Ensuring that the Executive Committee regularly provides leadership with information about its activities, through the *What's Up*.
- The latest edition of the Democrats Abroad Handbook will be available on cd and posted as a leadership listserv file on yahoogroups.com. Thanks go to all who have provided new material, as well as to Ruth McCreery for the editing and cd cover, Robert Checkoway for layout and design, and Joseph Smallhoover for review.

Raising Our Profile and Building Relationships

- Working with our delegation and colleagues at the Democratic National Committee on three resolutions: celebrating thirty years of overseas voting (April 2006); condemning torture (August 2006) and restoring the writ of habeas corpus (February 2007).
- Serving on the new Voter Reform Committee at the Association of State Democratic Chairs, with Joseph Smallhoover and Meredith Gowan LeGoff, to ensure that our concerns are raised.
- After working on our own handbook, volunteering to help edit two ASDC manuals for Chairs/Vice Chairs and Executive Directors. Regular participation in the Vice Chairs' meetings, as well as the ASDC and DNC meetings and conference calls.

And Opportunities

- Building and revitalizing relationships with our representatives, in particular with new members of Congress and Committee Chairs. We have also been in touch with Representative Carolyn Maloney regarding her recent initiative creating the Americans Abroad Caucus in the House.
- Using Act Blue, the on-line tool for contributing to democratic candidates and state parties as a fundraising resource. Our page is <http://www.actblue.com/page/democratsabroad>. We are also planning to hold some fundraising calls with the Act Blue team.
- Addressing the concerns, challenges and opportunities before us to be as effective as possible in 2008. Investing in our infrastructure, as well as strengthening our local organizations from start-ups to non-voting committees to full committees, will be important to our successes next November.

Appendix C

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY (Robert Checkoway)

As required by DPCA bylaws, I undertook to certify the Country Committee membership numbers and, by virtue of those figures, the voting strength of each Country Committee. The deadline for membership certification is 31 January of each year. The report below is based on data exported from the international database on February 1, 2007. As per our bylaws, each Country Committee has one "base" vote. A Country Committee is entitled to 1 Supplemental Vote if its membership is between 100 and 500, 2 Supplemental Votes if its membership is between 501 and 1000 and 3 Supplemental Votes if its membership is 1001 or greater.

To arrive at a membership number, I took the database list for each Country Committee, or a list provided by the Country Committee for those not using the international database. I then subtracted double and invalid entries. To be deemed valid a member required needed to have a name and at least one piece of contact data (email, address, or telephone). I then added for couples included as a single entry.

Whereas the worldwide membership increased appreciably over 2006, the decision was taken by the DPCA Executive Committee not to reduce the Supplemental Votes of those Country Committees which, for unknown reasons, showed a decrease in database numbers below the required threshold for their previous Supplemental Votes. This situation affected DA Italy and Indonesia.

DPCA Membership Certification Report 2007									
Country	Dbase	Other list	Double -	Invalid -	Couples +	Total 2007	Total 2006	Votes 2007	Votes 2006
Armenia	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Australia	621	na	13	1	0	607	410	3	2
Austria	300	na	6	0	0	294	272	2	2
Belgium	620	na	30	16	0	574	546	3	3
Bosnia	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Cambodia	90	na	1	0	0	89	81	1	1
Canada	5,289	na	292	3	49	5,043	4,703	4	4
Colombia	72	na	2	0	0	70	52	1	1
Costa Rica	142	na	4	0	12	150	211	2	2
Dom. Rep.	na	867	0	0	0	867	572	3	3
France	3,310	na	50	12	104	3,352	2,681	4	4
Germany	2,070	na	39	5	6	2,032	2,131	4	4
Greece	na	77	0	0	0	77	95	1	1
Hong Kong	539	na	12	0	0	527	551	3	3
India	na	220	4	2	9	223	61	2	1
Indonesia	88	na	2	0	1	87	100	2	2
Ireland	303	na	8	0	0	295	247	2	2
Israel	517	na	1	170	1	347	447	2	2
Italy	965	na	11	2	0	952	1,107	4	4
Japan	1,162	na	26	1	17	1,152	1,074	4	4
Luxembourg	86	na	5	11	0	70	91	1	1
Mexico	1,486	na	56	2	1	1,429	1,263	4	4
Netherlands	1,037	na	36	2	0	999	856	3	3
Norway	178	na	4	0	1	175	64	1	1
Panama	68	na	3	0	0	65	na	1	na
Philippines	na	53	0	0	0	53	67	1	1
Portugal	108	na	2	0	0	106	90	2	1
Russia	na	54	0	0	0	54	na	1	na
Spain	1,542	na	120	45	2	1,379	1,431	4	4
Sweden	269	na	4	1	0	264	225	2	2
Switzerland	986	na	40	1	0	945	853	3	3
Thailand	603	na	24	6	3	576	519	3	3
Ukraine	na	96	0	0	0	96	74	1	1
UK	4,312	na	104	3	158	4,363	3,841	4	4
TOTALS						27,312	24,715	78	73

Appendix D

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREASURER (Stanley Grossman)

2006 was a good year for Democrats Abroad. We helped to take back the House and Senate. That is probably not the subject of a Treasurer's report but it should be kept in mind that our outstanding Votefromabroad.org registration tool enabled many people to vote and, in places like Virginia, might very well have made the difference in which party controlled the Senate. And we couldn't have done any of this without raising and spending the money to develop, maintain and market the tool. The latter is certainly a proper topic for a Treasurer's report.

So on to the nitty gritty. In 2006 we raised a record \$295,293 and spent a record \$299,940. You will have received a Balance Sheet that gives some of the specifics of the revenues and expenditures. Let me point out a couple of things.

The good news is that we were able to raise a third of our budget from five very major donors and about half from 30 major donors in total. We wouldn't have been able to fund much of our activity without them.

The bad news is simply that we weren't able to expand our donor base to increase significantly the number of small but constant donors. While we enacted our Sustaining Donor program in January 2006, it still has fewer than 150 participants. Considering that we have tens of thousands of members, the low participation in the Sustaining Donor program is disappointing, to say the least. We certainly understand that some of our members have little disposable income but most could surely afford \$5/month or even \$10/quarter. Gov Dean proved that many people making small contributions online can achieve great things. We are very grateful for any sustaining contributions—no matter what the size.

On the revenue side, a bit over half our expenditures (about \$154,000) went to website hosting and development and VFA development, maintenance and marketing. I believe that this is the best use to which our money could have been put. Other expenses are outlined in the balance sheet.

The 2007 Budget calls for revenues totalling \$281,000 and expenditures of \$260,295. We project that large donations will amount to \$125,000—less than the \$150,000+ raised in 2006. However, we project an almost doubling in sustaining donor contributions from about \$32,000 to about \$60,000. While relatively few of us can contribute thousands of dollars at one go, most can join the SD program. See above.

The biggest items in the 2007 budget relate to IT development, enhancements and maintenance. We have a team led by Meredith Gowan LeGoff working on the best way to integrate such things as our database, website, VFA site, accounting tools, FEC software and contribution management. We are confident that, when all this is implemented, we will have the integrated IT tools that work for us, adapt to our needs and make sense for our size and budget.

As in 2006, our Executive Director will be paid by the DNC. However, the job of ED has become too big for one person and so we have agreed to hire a full-time Assistant to the ED. This assistant will carry out the time-consuming chores historically done by the ED and will work with the ED in other ways as well. The 2007 Budget contains a salary item of \$30,000 for nine months—based on a full-time salary of \$40,000 which assumes that the Assistant will begin on or around April 1st.

2006 was a great year for Democrats Abroad. With your help 2007 will be even better. If we are as successful this year as we have every reason to believe we will be, we will begin 2008 with a great chance to have a significant affect on the November elections and the direction of our country for years to come. I look forward to working with you to achieve our lofty but very achievable goals.

BALANCES AT December 31, 2006

Cash Balance on January 1, 2006	\$39,107.05
Cash Balance on December 31, 2006	\$34,459.75

CASH RECEIPTS	Amount	-----Total-----
Fundraising¹		
Direct Mail Appeal	\$16,000	
Sustaining Donor	\$32,000	
Major Donor²	\$152,760	
Contribution from French Committee	\$13,000	
House of Commons event in London³	\$20,000	
Other Contributions⁴	\$61,533	
TOTAL REVENUE		\$295,293

¹The only numbers that can be taken as precise are the amounts raised in major donor contributions and the total. We are now putting systems in place to track contributions from all sources: direct mail, special events, sustaining donors, major donors, meetings and others. These systems were not in place during the 2006. The figure of \$16,000 is an estimate of the amount raised in response to the one direct mail appeal in the year.

²Major donations are defined here as all one-time donations of \$500 or above. In 2006 we had three donors who gave close to the FEC maximum of \$26,700, two who gave \$10,000, one at \$7,500, one at \$5,000, 23 who gave between \$1,000 and \$4,000 and 16 who contributed between \$500 and \$800. Note that if Major Donor contributions are defined as one-time contributions of \$1,000 or above, then the total is \$144,200. For the purposes of this report, sustaining donor contributions that totalled \$500 or more during 2006 were not included in the major donor category.

³In late November, DAUK held a fundraising event at the House of Commons for the DPCA. This is now an annual event. Expenses were about \$7,000 and revenue was about \$20,000 leaving a profit of about \$13,000.

⁴These include all other online and cash/check donations—including payments for meetings and events.

CASH DISBURSEMENTS	Amount	---Total---
Operating Expenditures		
Office⁵		
Telephone & Mobile	\$2,256	
Postage	\$223	
Supplies	\$961	
Copies & Printing	\$622	
Other	\$1,163	
Total Office		\$5,225
Taxes/Fees/Dues/FEC Filings		
Bank/credit card fees	\$9,740	
ASDC Dues	\$850	
FEC Filings	\$5,000	
Other	\$94	
Total Taxes/Fees/FEC Filings		\$15,684
Salaries and Related Expenses⁶		
Staff Payroll	\$16,384	
Payroll – Withholding	\$3,978	
Staff Travel & Subsistence	\$16,101	
Total Salaries and Related Expenses		\$36,463
Outside Legal Fees		\$ 4,588
Technology & Website Expenditures		
Website Hosting and Development ⁷	\$23,412	
VFA.org Development	\$64,767	
VFA.org Maintenance & Enhancements	\$24,993	
Total Technology		\$113,172
Meetings (including one international meeting in Washington and three regional meetings in Bangkok, Rome and Punta Cana)		
Catering & Facilities	\$54,035	
Other	\$947	
Total Meetings		\$54,982
GOTV Advertising⁸		\$40,439
Fundraising Expenditures		
Direct Mail Production & Mailing	\$18,916	
House of Commons Event	\$7,271	
10% Revenue Sharing	\$2,135	
Verisign Security	\$400	
Total Fundraising Expenditures		\$28,722
Miscellaneous (Unassigned)		\$665
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$299,940
TOTAL NET REVENUE IN YEAR TO 12/31/06 (Loss)		-\$4,647

⁵ Note that our office is in the DNC Building and the DNC does not charge us any rent.

⁶This is for bookkeeping and other administrative staff. The salary for the Executive Director is paid by the DNC.

⁷This includes \$22,255 for work done by Scott Shaw of Creativerge for website hosting and development (including, among other things, installing and managing our Sustaining Donor program, consolidating Democrats Abroad blogs and country websites, rendering the President Carter video into flash video and updating country committee templates into movable type). There is also a monthly charge of \$25 for web hosting through SRI Hosting.

⁸This doesn't include \$3,932 paid or reimbursed in 2007. It does include \$10,486 spent for Tiger Team consulting.

DPCA 2007 BUDGET

<u>PROJECTED EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2007 BUDGET</u>	<u>2006 ACTUAL</u>
Salaries and Compensation		
Staff Salary/FICA (9 months) ¹	\$30,000	\$20,362
Part-Time Bookkeeping (6 weeks)	\$1,200	
Office²		
copies & printing, postage & shipping, supplies, telephone & mobile, etc	\$8,000	\$5,225
Travel and Meetings		
Staff Travel ³	\$4,000	\$16,101
International Meetings	\$36,000	\$54,982
Delegate Selection Plan	\$3,000	N/A
Speakers' Fund	\$20,000	N/A
DNC Communications Directors Training Meeting	\$1,200	N/A
Marketing/Fundraising		
Direct Mail Appeal	\$20,000	\$18,916
Verisign Security ⁴	\$685	\$400
VFA Marketing	\$20,000	\$40,439
Web Hosting (\$25/month)	\$300	\$300
Website Support & Maintenance ⁵	\$6,000	\$23,112
UK House of Commons Event	\$7,300	\$7,271
Media Communications	\$1,000	N/A
10% Revenue Sharing ⁶	\$1,000	\$2,135
Banking, Credit Card Costs and other operations costs		
Bank/Credit Card Fees	\$12,000	\$9,740
Outside Legal Fees	\$6,000	\$4,588
ASDC Dues	\$850	\$850
FEC Reports (3 months)	\$1,500	\$5,000
Projects		
IT Needs Study	\$26,260	N/A
IT Enhancements	\$50,000	\$89,760
Purchase of state voter files	\$4,000	N/A
Miscellaneous (unassigned)	N/A	\$759
<u>TOTAL BUDGETED</u>	<u>\$260,295</u>	<u>\$299,940</u>
<u>PROJECTED REVENUES</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006⁷</u>
Email Solicitations	\$20,000	\$21,533
Country Committee Fundraising	\$25,000	\$32,000
Meeting Revenues	\$36,000	\$40,000
Sustaining Donor	\$60,000	\$33,000
Major Donor	\$125,000	\$152,760
Direct Mail Appeal	\$15,000	\$16,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$281,000</u>	<u>\$295,293</u>

NOTE: We began the year with about \$35,000 net in the bank. This gives us a cushion if revenues fall short or if expenses run over budget.

¹Salary for the Executive Director is paid directly by the DNC. For 2007, staff salary represents nine months funding for other administrative staff.

²Our Washington office is housed in the DNC building. The DNC does not charge us any rent.

³Expenses related to travel by international officers is not paid for by the DPCA. Officers currently travel at their own expense.

⁴Verisign Charges: 2006, one-year fee; 2007, two-year fee

⁵There were a number of developments in 2006 that raised the cost of website maintenance. It is assumed that expenses for website maintenance in 2007 will average \$500 per month.

⁶Estimated carry over from 2006

⁷As noted in the December 31, 2006 balances, these numbers are approximate. The only number that is precise is the total.

Appendix E

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIR EMEA (Meredith Gowan Le Goff)

We have had a lot of grassroots efforts in the EMEA region and several EMEA wide events. Many thanks are due to many who helped and assisted in organizing and pulling off these events, so I have not mentioned names but given credit to the group and in each of those groups you know who the masterminds and worker bees were. Like in many things we rely on the local group which is the key to all our efforts. Also to avoid repetition I have not included DPCA world wide events such as the Voter Registration Day in May or DPCA efforts I work on or lead, but focused on your EMEA events. I have not reported on country committee issues which take a lot of time to work out and usually have some underside to them from elected local officers disappearing once they have the title, disinformation spread on the organization or about leaders, local and international and so forth to the mundane on regional matters such as necessary training for the Country Committees.

In late May and early June, Terry Lierman, Chair of The Maryland State Democratic Party, a member of the DNC Executive Committee and advisor to leading political figures visited our region and spoke at several events. DA Italy hosted two events: Florence: Sunday, May 28 was the kick off and the Florence Chapter hosted Terry Lierman on the first stop of his European Listening Tour at a garden party on the beautiful campus of Syracuse University. It should also be mentioned that on Memorial Day, a delegation of more than two dozen members of Democrats Abroad, including Terry Lierman was formally present at the American Military Cemetery in Florence for the traditional ceremony. The ceremony, held in remembrance for the WWII veterans, included U.S. Ambassador Spogli, U.S. Consul General Dempsey, representatives of the Italian government and various civic organizations. A wreath sent by DA was laid in tribute to the sacrifices of our troops, vividly illustrated by the more than 4,000 quiet, dignified graves. Particular attention was paid to attending WWII survivors of the 10th Mountain Division. This all-volunteer unit consisted of experienced skiers who parachuted into the mountains of Italy on freezing winter nights to successfully surprise the German army, an intervention which helped turn the tide in favor of the Allies and democracy. These veterans, now in their 80s and 90s, were making their final formal visit to Italy. Rome: The Rome Chapter hosted a dinner which was well attended. Afterwards everyone went for ice cream and Terry spoke to the crowd outside. DA France organized a dinner in Paris at which was very well attended. DA Belgium had a two-part event; a cocktail/speech followed by a dinner both of which were well attended. DA Belgium considered it a success both money was raised and membership increased. Our start-up group for Poland held a dinner in Warsaw. Terry's visit was covered by the press in Florence, Paris and Brussels.

In October, we held an EMEA wide Take Back the Congress. Time On-Line published an article on the event by a journalist based in Paris.

In October, we had a very successful regional meeting in Rome which was extremely well organized by DA Italy. Our meetings were at the Centro Studi Americani. We had a fundraising gala at the spectacular Campidoglio in the Sala della Protomoteca.

In November, for the first time in a long time we had a successful election in the United States, thanks to our efforts as evidenced in the information from VoteFromAbroad.

Building on lessons learned in this past election cycle, an EMEA working group has been created to look at how we can increase our regional activity and leverage our advantages. They are presently working on two projects:

2008 Race for the White House: We will have materials on each of the Presidential Candidates posted on a forum which will help you organize local events focusing on a get-to-know-the-candidates program. We want to allow blogging on this forum. We will be organizing a monthly call with a Presidential candidate on an announced schedule. The call will be open to members and operated a little differently from our EMEA Take Back the Congress event.

EMEA Event Calendar: We are putting together a calendar which will show all the major events happening in our area so that we can work with you to organize local Democrats Abroad events around those happenings. We will also on this level be working on getting meetings or visits by visiting VIPs, politicians, actors, writers, or whomever wherever. We had several near encounters with greatness in 2006 and want to build on the lessons learned.

Country Committee Admissions:

Russia

Start Up Activities:

Egypt
Ethiopia
Poland
South Africa
Turkey
UAE

Country Committee Elections:

Elections for this year have been held in Israel, Germany and the United Kingdom. Elections are scheduled for Austria, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the Ukraine.

Thank you for all your help and support in making this first effort at real regional organization a success and for your support of Democrats Abroad.

Appendix F

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIR AMERICAS (Leo Perez Minaya)

New Country Committees

During our last Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C., I reported that several countries were meeting all the requirements to comply with the DPCA rules and make part of the DA family. I am pleased to announce that Panama has been an official member of DPCA for a few months and Guatemala celebrated its first meeting to approve the bylaws on March 3rd, 2007. Brazil has over 100 members and Argentina passed the 50-member mark. Therefore, I expect Brazil and Argentina to become the next two full Country Committee Members within the next 120 days.

Regional Meeting

Attached you will find 11 pages of the minutes of the Regional Meeting in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, celebrated on November 12, 13, and 14, 2006. The minutes were written by Beverly Bandler, member of both DA/Mexico and the LA Grassroots Team. Beverly's minutes are rich in helpful detail. Today I am also giving a copy to all the participants of the Regional Meeting in Punta Cana of the 4-disc DVD set with footage of the whole meeting, courtesy of the Dominican Republic Country Committee. The most outstanding part of the meeting was the presence of Gov. Howard Dean, who spent 36 hours in the Dominican Republic. His speech from the meeting was recorded and is included in the aforementioned DVD.

The Dominican Republic Country Committee organized a successful fundraising activity at the request of the DNC.

Beverly, Adrienne and I continue working on our grassroots movement on the whole region, with results that you already know of. We will explore the possibilities for Democrats Abroad development in El Salvador, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, all countries with very sensitive political landscapes, in the near future.

Increasing Membership

We experienced marked membership increases in DA/Mexico, DA/Canada, and DA/Dominican Republic. DA/Mexico now has around 1,500 members, an increase of 20 percent over the last year. Canada went from 4,300 to 5,392, a 25 percent increase. The Dominican Republic Country Committee membership increased 80 percent, going from 500 to about 900 members.

In summary, we now have full country committees in Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Guatemala, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. We expect to have full country committees established in Argentina and Brazil within a few months. We plan to take initiatives in Ecuador, El Salvador, and Venezuela.

Appendix G

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIR AMERICAS (Gary Suwannarat)

Regional Meeting

The Asia-Pacific Region held its regional meeting in Bangkok end-September 2006. Countries represented included Cambodia, Japan, Hong Kong, and Thailand. (add from report to DPCA list from early October, and to AP list.)

Committee Formation

No new committees were added in 2006 or early 2007. The Philippines committee was reconstituted in February 2007, with new by-laws and newly elected officers committed to grow membership and voter registration. Georgia McCauley was elected Chair.

Committee Growth

Membership grew by over 16% in 2006, led by India's near tripling of membership, and Australia's 56% growth. Thailand, Cambodia and Japan each grew by 10% or less. Three countries saw their certified membership fall: HK, by 4.5%; Indonesia, by 13%; and the Philippines, 20%.

VFA '06 registrations for all of Asia, including countries which are not yet DA committees, compared well to OV04 registrations, comprising 13% and 12.5 %, respectively, of total global registrations.

Appendix H

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Lindsey Reynolds)

My Goal: Like all of you in this room, we share the same goal, electing a Democrat as President in 2008. As your Executive Director we will work together to turn out the vote for our nominee and ultimately elect him/her in November 2008.

Contact Information: I am located within the Political Department of the DNC. My phone number is 202.488.5073 and my email is ED@democratsabroad.org.

Work In Progress: Currently I am getting settled into the position. Last week Michael and I met with Polli Brunelli at FVAP and Jack Markey at the State Department. I am working with the Regional Vice Chairs to get up to speed on each country committee and have spent some time on the phone with Joe Smallhoover making certain we are all in compliance.

Please don't hesitate to contact me and I look forward to working with each of you.

Appendix I

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAIR (Michael Ceurvorst)

Chairman Michael Ceurvorst's Final Report – Victory in 2008

The main thing about the past two years is, we Democrats won on November 7, 2006. The reality is, we need to win more decisively in 2008, including reclaiming the White House, increasing majorities in both Houses of Congress.

We won't win in 2008 unless we Democrats bring about changes the electorate signaled as its priorities: peace in the Middle East, health care reform, responsive and ethical governance, effective measures in dealing with energy and environmental crises, restoration of endangered liberties and rights, and true accountability for abuses, malfeasance, and incompetence.

History suggests that if we Democrats don't act resolutely, we may have a very tough time in 2008. We cannot let ourselves be "outframed" or be dilatory or timorous.

To get to victory we will:

- stimulate and manage already impressive growth via outreach, especially to youth and business, everywhere, and especially in Hispanic and Asia-Pacific regions;
- re-think and perhaps redefine our manner of organization and modes of meeting;
- integrate and improve our database and communications, both technical and at all interpersonal levels, so we can communicate, not suffocate; inform and motivate;
- thank our sustaining contributors at whatever level, and meet sober budgets. All contributors want to see relevance and efficiency, and victories;
- regularize policy and platform formulation so we contribute meaningfully to the national platform and performance, including via media work;
- routinize our problem-resolution mechanisms and adaptations to change,
- improve our already impressive interactions within the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and Association of State Democratic Chairs (ASDC),
- target a specific number of voters to register (exceed 350,000 in 2008?).

This game plan includes elements already begun. The point is to keep our eye on the prize, measure ourselves against achievements and goals we set together. Where there are obstacles, we need to avoid recriminations and simply identify and deal.

GROWTH: In each regional gathering last year I asked country committee and regional leaders to map the universe of Americans—not just Democrats or those we know from our social or business interactions. To grow we must know. Few committees responded because we are all busy, but we need to do this mapping to prepare for intelligently designed expansion and to cast our eyes beyond trodden paths.

We have not yet achieved an accurate census of even our tens of thousands of members to include the magic nine-digit voting ZIP codes. Our January 31 lists will be better in 2008 as we integrate our website JOIN functions, our communications capabilities, and our country list management at the country and chapter levels.

We should at this stage only seek to sketch, not detail, how many Americans there are in Xanadu, -- where they are and what kind of community or grouping exists.

I am talking rough maps. For example, one could posit that on the coasts, there are three retirement centers with roughly y number; in the suburbs, lawyers and accountants with roughly z number; on Main

Street, small businesses roughly q number but through American Chamber of Commerce, several hundred companies and several thousand members; in the provinces, missionaries by the dozens; at the universities and colleges and high schools, teachers and x-hundred students and semester or year-abroad folk with or without alumni associations in A numbers. Put the map together as a sketch. Refine next go-round.

We won't ever get to tally the 4.3 (State Dept estimate) to 7 million (some organizations' estimate) Americans abroad if we don't expand our local knowledge and means of communication.

That's another reason why country committees must name and use **Media Contact(s)**. We're talking two-way channels. Ditto for blogs and all manner of e-talk and u-journalism if we have members who want to and can do. There are legal and privacy issues, but these are not insurmountable obstacles to broadening our ways of outreach.

As Democrats Abroad **our brief is to provide a channel for significant political participation in U.S. politics** to those abroad, including voting, working issues, developing and articulating policy, interacting at home and abroad with our fellow citizens. That is how we will grow committees.

I have been privileged to welcome officially India, Panama, Russia, and soon Guatemala, with a dozen more on the brink, thanks to everyone's work and the chance to make a difference. I see tremendous growth possibilities in Hispanic areas, and in the Asia-Pacific region, especially if we can create categories of U.S. voting assistance teams for countries like China, Vietnam, Singapore. North and East Africa are also burgeoning, and mature Europe could still double. And we can realize much potential in immediate outreach to:
-- youth, directly and through the academic deans and alumni associations,
-- the business community, now very open to the Democratic Party as the only party that is fiscally responsible, calls for accountability, and is aware of what peace dividends can mean for everyone with regimens of free and fair trade.

I also think we should welcome multiple memberships, in Democrats Abroad and Amcham, Fawco, American Womens Association, American Clubs, and encourage participation in the warden systems of our embassies and consulates.

STRUCTURAL ADAPTATIONS

In this next cycle decisions will have to be taken on an interlocking set of issues. Should we return to two semi-annual global gatherings with venues determined through a bidding process or should we continue an alternating rhythm I introduced of spring global and autumn regional sessions, to allow for more individualized training, more affordable venues and local team building, more coordination of VIP, media, and training opportunities? Or maybe both, depending on regional needs.

Secondly, I am totally convinced that my decision to elevate in operations and status the office of regional vice-chair was right and necessary. RVCs are now full voting members of EXCOM. The same role is exercised differently in the regions, and I think it appropriate to allow further experimentation.

It would be a mistake to define the RVC role too closely now.

In three years there will be sufficient experience to reassess. With many tens of committees and more tens of thousands of members, Regional Vice-chairs will necessarily play a powerfully facilitative – not

dominant or determinative – role, in helping country chairs and vice-chairs (with or without chapters) develop as far as possible.

Our wonderful handbook, always a work in progress but brought to usable form this year by many, especially by Christine, is an important adjunct to meetings, training and mentoring.

Should our regions change? For now I think Europe-Middle East – Africa may be too large and could, within three years, be divided into two regions, depending on growth in the interim. Such division will not be easy either politically or functionally. If our goal is greater unity in GOTV, greater sharing of VIPs, and more effective coordination, we will have to be careful about following older political or cultural demarcations. From Russia to Cairo? From Edinburgh to Palermo? From Paris to Warsaw? Hmm, not easy, indeed. One path would be to develop wherever Americans are and then reevaluate. Dividing EMEA into EU and non-EU does not strike me as wise, despite the convenience.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND INTEGRATION

Democrats tend to be disputatious on principle and by practice. By elevating the bylaws committee from an ad hoc basis to a standing committee under the direction of international counsel and charging it with the threefold task of developing new model bylaws, handling interim issues as they arise, and reviewing all existing bylaws to eliminate non-DNC or DPCA compliant provisions, I intended that we avoid getting bogged down with problems better handled methodically. The bylaws standing committee reports its suggested solutions to EXCOM, which either decides or decides to ask the entire DPCA to decide.

POLICY AND RELEVANCE

Many different impulses have given rise to country committees and chapters. No one model fits all. Some find relevance in filling the need for unregulated sharing of information and news, e.g., in countries where tight media control exists, either via actual texts or in digital format. Others find relevance in pushing the limits of ideas in discussing books or significant movies or plays to arrive at deeper thought and more pungent framing. Some committees are so spread out that a social evening of political talk over drinks is a refreshing recommitment to being American in the hubbub of another culture and fulltime occupations. No one can say what is the right way to be relevant. However, if we are not relevant to our committee's members, we lose both commitment and members.

IPWG

I have written several times elsewhere about the International Policy Working Group, something still inchoate but rather developed in EMEA, particularly in our French committee. The point of this global group is to institutionalize and, to some extent, professionalize our policy deliberations and impulses. To add value to Democrats Abroad and within the entire Party, the IPWG works through issues to:

- provide stances on important issues that represent agreed positions, e.g., on the environment, that can be accessed through our website,
- serve as a source of researched and debated views for media work and as a good base for responses to emergent occasions,
- help prepare for our DPCA platform in advance so that the global gathering to approve the platform does not start from scratch or consider issues all over or be subject to pressure moves from one side of an issue that has not been debated within.

We are the best – not the only -- group to speak to issues of concern to Americans abroad, from taxation to social security to medicare. A specific portfolio within IPWG is dedicated to developing these, and all of IPWG's work should be useful in representing our views and insights on Capitol Hill and to visiting VIPs.

We don't gain clout by group think, but if we are a thinking group that articulates and enunciates its points, we gain influence.

My experience as your Platform Committee representative in 2000 and 2004 helped, but some committees, especially DA France, and our very capable DNC delegate team together scored phenomenal achievements. We succeeded in having three successive DNC conventions adopt our resolutions on:

- voting (in New Orleans),
- condemning torture and holding those accountable whose policies allow torture (in Chicago), and
- restoring the writ of habeas corpus ripped from all Americans' bill of rights by the Military Commissions Act passed in the last gasps of the last Republican Congress, the 109th (in Washington, D.C.).

Our stature has risen within the Democratic Party and among the State parties because we have taken on important stances formulated clearly for the entire DNC.

Now we have to do more with those results in the public eye, among ourselves, and with the newly Democratic Congress.

DNC and ASDC

I have very consciously striven to integrate us more into the functioning of the DNC and the Association of State Democratic Chairs. First, under Chairman Howard Dean's State Partnership Program and at my behest, our Executive Director has been both totally funded by the DNC and housed within the Political Department. Before, the ED received health benefits and worked occasionally at home and occasionally in the DNC. We have been welcomed with open arms and our ED is fully funded and granted health benefits. We know what is going on within the DNC because we, as the Democratic Party Committee Abroad, are within the DNC physically. The DNC Vice-chairs are speaking with Democrats Abroad when they travel. We will also see more VIPs and delegations as we gain access through AMCHAMS and our own efforts as governors lead business delegations abroad to promote trade and other relations.

I also think we need now more than ever a **legislative affairs committee** of four to six people who monitor current legislation and help the Chair, EXCOM and DNC focus efforts on particular bills and amendments. This remains for the next chair and EXCOM to realize. The start I made did not succeed.

ADVISORY GROUP

Again, I instituted but did not use well an advisory group consisting of all former international chairs, vice-chairs and executive directors. We should not lose that talent and dedication (or financial support in some cases) because someone moves on or steps back for whatever reason. A typical advisory group is great names on letterhead stationery. We could do that to some advantage, but I think we should encourage former leaders to continue to contribute however the incumbent chair sees fit, or as the advisors feel impelled by circumstances to suggest privately.

I am very proud that we successfully enlisted **President Jimmy Carter as our Honorary Chairman**, specifically to highlight the vote. His postings to us increased awareness of the crucial importance of this past election to our whole republican enterprise. We should again ask him to stay on as our chairman, and keep an eye open for the next or additional honorary chairpersons, from **Speaker Pelosi** to former President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore.

HOW DID WE GET TO BE WHO AND WHERE WE ARE

Anna Marie Mattson of DA-France has been doing the spade work here for a global history of Democrats Abroad, but that will only succeed if every committee sketches its own history. To further that end I reviewed books about our beginnings in France and Israel for the website. We also now have a filing cabinet in the DNC for our archival materials. This project is urgent as many who know our founding and the individual committee histories are gaining in age or no longer with us.

COMMUNICATIONS

Lastly, we have made great improvements in our communications with other quantum leaps to come. **Communications Director and International Press Secretary Sharon Manitta** has a great informal team busy on many fronts. Sharon's report for this session lets everyone see what media coverage we've achieved, though we can do still more.

Our **website** is good and diverse, a community bulletin board, a spotlight on issues, a venue for regular leadership notes, a way for country committees to let others know what's on. I commend **Rhoda Green** for her work, with technical and personal support. The website is not sacrosanct, and improvements should continue to occur.

Further, your EXCOM worked very hard over the past two years and to share that has provided updates via "**What's up with EXCOM**", thanks largely to Vice-chair Christine's perseverance and the contributions of other members.

Our **DA News** under **Ruth McCreery** (also the **Overseas Democrat** editor and liaison to excom) limits the torrent of words and messages, yet still provides access to a lot of material via regular communication. For some members we provide too much in this age of inboxes as boundless as the seas, and for others too little. The **Wednesday Wire** is **John McQueen's** inventive summary of politics that provides so

many a thumbnail approach to political developments with analysis – and topical contributions from folks like Lauren Shannon on framing. Executive Director Emeritus **Tom Fina's Letter from Washington** is widely read and eagerly anticipated for its well considered perspective on overall political developments

VOTING Our www.VoteFromAbroad.org team is glorious, including Margo Miller and Joe Green and the rest of TEAM 51, whom I honor, but also the entire marketing team from around the globe with John McCreery, the Tiger Team and its members, and all you who worked to get out the vote. **Leo Perez Minaya** made the Spanish language version possible, a new tool in our outreach efforts to accompany the marked regional growth in Latin America.

We will have learned from our mistakes and multiplied our strengths. We will get to victory in 2008, an evolving and wonderful organization with plenty of growth and influence ahead in making our country and the world a better place, for the common good and for the sake of justice and everyone's liberty.

I have been honored to be your Chair and will track the great work you will be doing. I finish my time with gratitude and admiration for the depth of passion and commitment so often displayed throughout Democrats Abroad.

Appendix J

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TIMING OF ANNUAL MEETINGS

proposed by Joe Smallhoover (International Counsel)

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend the Bylaws of Democrats Abroad in order to give it greater flexibility as to the timing of annual meetings,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in Section 3.1 of the Bylaws the phrase "in the first quarter" is amended to read "in the first half".

Appendix K

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE RESTORATION OF HABEAS CORPUS

Proposed by Connie Borde (Chair, DA France) and Joe Smallhoover (International Counsel)

Whereas, the Constitutional privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus has been impaired by the Military Commissions Act adopted by the 109th Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2006;

Whereas, this Act abolishes a privilege fundamental to the rule of law;

Whereas, the Writ of Habeas Corpus has been abridged in a fashion unprecedented since its establishment over 800 years ago;

Whereas the Writ of Habeas Corpus is fundamental to the fight against terrorism and tyranny, the respect of the individual, the rule of law and of human rights;

Whereas, this fight must involve the preservation of fundamental rights of all humans and of the rule of law, which are the bases of democratic societies, the very values that terrorists and tyrants seek to destroy;

Whereas, democracy being fragile, Benjamin Franklin's declaration that "those who would give up Essential Liberty to purchase a little Temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety" is as applicable in the Twenty-first Century as it was in the Eighteenth Century;

Therefore, let it be resolved that Democrats Abroad proclaims its unwavering support for the fundamental rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, including the Writ of Habeas Corpus, and for the preservation of such rights and privileges as an essential protection against terrorism and tyranny;

Be it further resolved that Democrats Abroad urges all Democratic members of the 110th Congress to support bills before Congress which would undo the damage to the rule of law and to the fundamental rights and privileges of the US Constitution effected by the Military Commissions Act by restoring the Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Appendix L

RESOLUTION OPPOSING TROOP BUILDUP

Proposed by Connie Borde (DNC Member and Chair, DA France) and Joe Smallhoover (International Counsel)

WHEREAS the Bush/Cheney Administration's call to invade Iraq was based on lies and deception of the highest magnitude;

WHEREAS this War in Iraq has failed pitifully even in its stated goals, increasing terrorism rather than bringing democracy and peace to Iraq and the region;

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad has previously called for the rapid return of American and allied troops from Iraq;

WHEREAS the American electorate clearly demonstrated their disapproval of the Bush/Cheney Administration and the Republican Party in the 2006 elections, especially with respect to the President's Iraq policy;

WHEREAS, the Bush/Cheney Administration has stated that it will INCREASE the number of American troops in Iraq;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad calls on the US House of Representatives and the US Senate to oppose all attempts by the Bush/Cheney Administration to increase the number of US troops in Iraq and to refuse funding for any escalation of the war in Iraq.

Appendix M

RESOLUTION ON CIVIL WAR IN IRAQ

Proposed by Susan Haug (Vice Chair, DA Germany) and Mitch Wolfson (Chair, DA Germany)

WHEREAS the US-led military intervention was preceded by deliberate misrepresentation on the part of the coalition governments of key facts concerning Iraq's military potential prior to the invasion;

WHEREAS both the military invasion of Iraq and the installation of the provisional government have been an unqualified failure;

WHEREAS subsequent to the immediate period of the invasion from March 2003 to September 2004 during which some 112,000 Iraqis perished, ca. 655,000 Iraqi civilians died in the period from October 2004 to July 2006* besides coalition military and civilian personnel (including 3008 dead American soldiers as well as ca. 22,000 wounded GIs as of 13.1.2007);

WHEREAS civilian refugees are currently fleeing from Iraq in large numbers;

WHEREAS in the aftermath of the coalition intervention in Iraq the level of support for international terrorism has increased, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has worsened, the entire Middle East has been destabilized and there has been a resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan;

WHEREAS US citizens clearly demonstrated their disapproval of the President's Iraq policy in the 2006 congressional election;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Democratic Party exerts strong pressure to secure a political rather than a military solution to the civil war in Iraq. Military force cannot be the answer to communal violence. A lasting political solution can be achieved only in concert with Iraq's neighbors. The Democratic Party rejects George Bush's policy of increased deployment of US military forces in Iraq and refuses to approve funding for any buildup of American troops.

*Figures from an article by Gilbert Burnham et al. from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and published online in The Lancet on October 11, 2006.

Appendix N

RESOLUTION ON PREVENTING MILITARY ATTACK ON IRAN

Proposed by Caitlin Kraft-Buchman (Chair, DA Switzerland)

WHEREAS we fear that the administration of George W. Bush is again guiding the nation to a preemptive war - this time with Iran - while still engaged in two unsuccessful wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

WHEREAS despite the painful lessons from the Iraq war disaster - including more than 3000 U.S. soldiers dead and Iraq torn asunder by sectarian civil war - the Bush administration appears to be following the same course it chose in the run up to war in Iraq: insisting that war is "a last resort," yet putting in motion the engines of war; brushing aside doubts and warnings; then presenting war as unavoidable, and

WHEREAS the repercussions of a war with Iran - apart from more U.S. casualties, more civilian deaths, and more enormous military expenditures - would be horrific, stirring up even more fury in the region and throughout the Muslim world, further isolating the United States, infecting populations across the Middle East with an epidemic of anti-Americanism, drawing other countries in the region into war, and tipping control of Pakistan to extremist movements, thereby leaving a region in flames, even larger numbers of Muslims dying, and thus an Israel finding it harder to protect itself against an eventual attack by someone with an unconventional weapon,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad urge the Democratic Party and Congress to impress upon the President that the current crisis over Iran's enrichment of uranium and its alleged aid and assistance to the insurgency in Iraq should be solved through diplomacy and direct talks with the government of Iran, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Democrats Abroad urge the Democratic Party and Congress to warn the President and his administration of the dire foreseeable and unforeseeable repercussions of an air strike on Iran and to take every conceivable step to prevent the Administration, or Israel on its behalf, to initiate a military attack on Iran.

Appendix O

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PROACTIVE POLICY ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

Proposed by Joanne Yaron (Chair, DA Israel) and Susan Vaillant (holding proxy for Connie Borde, DNC Member and Chair, DA France)

WHEREAS the Israeli-Palestinian long-term violent conflict has become one of the central problems in the Middle East and this dangerous situation needs to be resolved for the sake of world peace and stability, and the peoples of the region;

WHEREAS we are encouraged by the numerous peace attempts and actions by the relevant parties and several of the leading Arab countries, and from such important achievements as the long standing 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty and 1994 Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty, both concluded with the active facilitation of the United States of America;

WHEREAS the United States has already been proactively involved in such official and unofficial agreements, working papers and conference protocols as the 1991 Madrid Principles, 1993 Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, the 1998 Wye River Memorandum, 2000 Camp David Summit, 2001 Clinton Parameters and the 2002 Road Map for Peace;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad supports a plank in the Democratic Party platform to implement and renew with all judicious speed a proactive policy to be actively facilitated by the United States of America in close concert with other interested nations, the United Nations, the European Union as well as official representatives of Israelis and Palestinians who have been instrumental in working for peace in the region;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party platform should promote the establishment of a Permanent Ambassador assisted by a team of researchers and negotiators as a resource, stationed in the Middle East, preferably in both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, and active in the development of an Israeli-Palestinian peace process;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States of America will develop in cooperation with other nations, a package of economic, social and political incentives as an integral part of its proactive policy, for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority and the State of Israel, with incentives to begin at a time certain to continue or be suspended based on benchmarks for progress;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that agreement by the Palestinian Authority and the State of Israel to cease and desist all acts and rhetoric of violence and the development or expansion of settlements, and to publicly and mutually respect each other's rights to exist and recognize relevant prior agreements, will contribute to the execution of a treaty that respects international law, attested by neighboring states, thereby bringing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to its long overdue peaceful conclusion.

Appendix P

RESOLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Proposed by Connie Borde (DNC Member and Chair, DA France) and Donna DuCarme (Chair, DA Netherlands)

WHEREAS the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush has publicly acknowledged the growing threat of climate change and both Houses of Congress are considering multiple proposals for regulating GHG emissions within the United States of America;

WHEREAS business leaders in the United States of America, such as the members of the United States Climate Action Partnership, are increasingly calling for legislators to establish a regulatory and market-based framework for reducing GHG emissions;

WHEREAS the alternative energy technologies needed to tackle climate change will create a substantial number of highly-skilled jobs, and, by taking a leadership role in this area, many of these jobs could be generated in the United States of America;

WHEREAS the international community has already established market-based mechanisms for reducing GHG emissions;

WHEREAS United States businesses and agencies can curb compliance costs by gaining access to the international emissions trading market;

WHEREAS participation and leadership of the United States of America in multilateral efforts to reduce GHG emissions will motivate increased action by other countries;

WHEREAS without the participation of the United States of America, the efforts of the international community to fight climate change will ultimately have little or no effect;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad call for a clear and swift decision by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) to develop a United States Climate Change Policy by the end of 2008 that includes United States of America participation in multilateral efforts to slow, stop and reverse the increase of global GHG emissions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a policy will provide that the United States of America take a position of leadership and play an active role in designing and participating in the post-2012 (post-Kyoto Protocol) regime;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the largest emitter of GHGs, the United States of America has a moral obligation to the people most affected by our actions, and therefore the DNC will include in its policy measures that protect and assist vulnerable populations around the world, as well as position the United States of America as an advocate for market-based mechanisms that foster sustainable and clean development opportunities in developing countries.

Appendix Q

RESOLUTION ON ENERGY POLICY

Proposed by Connie Borde (DNC Member and Chair, DA France) and Donna DuCarme (Chair, DA Netherlands)

WHEREAS the Republican Party has shown little leadership on these issues of vital importance to the American people, preferring to bestow favors on special interest groups rather than develop policies for the benefit of the American people. Spending on energy research and technology development has decreased under Republican leadership, and what limited research is still being done is too little too late, with objectives that are so far into the future as to be meaningless in addressing the issues facing the nation today.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad address these crucial issues in an evidence-based, committed and responsible manner, commencing with the proposals set out below.

- Enacting legislation to reduce US greenhouse gas emissions through meaningful long term (25 – 50 years) mandatory targets while creating targets and incentives to begin reducing emissions now, before more carbon-intensive infrastructure is built;
- Working within the post-Kyoto framework to develop global, multilateral solutions to mitigate climate change;
- Improving energy efficiency: Reduce our national, commercial, and personal, energy consumption by encouraging and adopting energy-efficient personal habits (e.g. using more public transportation; investing in energy efficient products for our homes, public buildings, and businesses; turning off lights and electronic devices when not in use; minimizing packaging/recycling waste products, etc.);
- Developing more stringent Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for cars or considering a different approach to increasing fuel efficiency of vehicles consistent with technological developments, and eliminating the light-truck loophole;
- Developing alternative energy sources: Rather than “blaming” the oil industry for price gouging; realize instead that rising oil prices are in keeping with freely operating markets and actually encourage environmentally friendly responses, such as energy efficiency and alternatives to oil;
- Increasing energy-related R&D investments and setting more ambitious targets in areas such as new materials, solar power, biofuels, hydrogen, fuel cells, batteries and other electricity storage devices, and carbon dioxide capture and storage;
- Re-examining nuclear power as a potential low-CO2 emissions option to produce large amounts of electricity; de-coupling nuclear from renewables and other “green” options by recognizing that they are not mutually exclusive; and expanding research towards developing advanced nuclear reactors;
- Requiring all new fossil-fueled power plants to be capable of capturing carbon dioxide emissions or have the capability to add capture facilities in the near future;
- De-regulating power transmission such that small distributed power providers can sell power to the grid or to any other local users;
- Extending tax credits for renewable energy such as solar, wind and geothermal, energy efficient homes, cars, and appliances;
- Continuing or expanding tax incentives for bio-fuels to the extent that they are contributing to a cleaner environment and are not competing with global food supplies; also removing heavy import duties on ethanol from developing countries;
- For low income families, introducing local government initiatives to buy up and replace old, inefficient cars, appliances, etc.; conduct energy audits of homes, subsidizing insulation and other improvements as necessary;
- Formulating a revenue neutral gasoline tax that keeps the gasoline price at a minimum level and reflects the true cost of oil consumption; and/or imposing a tax on imported oil when the oil price falls below a set real price; in addition, introducing “gas stamps” or other means of reducing the burden of high gasoline prices on low income families;
- Providing public transportation incentives in areas with adequate population density; providing incentives to reduce sprawl, revitalizing and upgrading passenger rail systems and sponsoring a nation-wide campaign to promote the use of public transportation;
- Stepping up clean energy technology transfers to developing countries; consider replacing some of the military aid with development aid in the form of clean energy assistance; encourage industries to license of clean energy technologies to developing countries; in the case of China, eliminate restrictions prohibiting “foreign aid” at least in the area of clean energy technology.