

The School for International Studies and Hellenic Studies in cooperation with the
Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation University Seminars program,
Present a Free Seminar:

**"A Greek in the United Nations: Promoting peace, development and human rights
around the globe. - Afghanistan"**

By Dr. Sotirios Mousouris

- Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations (between 1983- 1995)
Lawyer /Economist.
- served as Coordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programs.
- in 1987 appointed Director of the Centre against Apartheid.
- in 1992 Mr. B. Boutros Ghali appointed him Deputy Head of the Department of
Political Affairs.
- in July 1992 was appointed as Personal Representative of the Secretary General
for Afghanistan and Pakistan and Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance for
Afghanistan.

DATE: Wednesday March 18th 2009
TIME: 4:30pm
PLACE: SFU Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings St, Room 1530

**EVENT IS FREE BUT WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE RSVP your attendance at:
hellenic@sfu.ca or call 778-782-8466**

SOTIRIOS MOUSOURIS

Dr. S. Mousouris, lawyer – economist (DBA Harvard 1967) was **Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations** between 1983 and 1995, President of the Organization of the Construction of the New Acropolis Museum(1995-2000), and also served as banker, roving ambassador, founder of a distance learning university , lecturer and author.

In his main career with the United Nations as Assistant Secretary General he served as **Coordinator of Special Economic Assistance Programs**, heading a multi-agency mission to Ghana (1984), he prepared a special assistance program for Lesotho and organized missions for Benin and Pacific Islands.. Later, as **Director of the Office for Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters** (1984-1987) was responsible for the functioning of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the

Second and Third Committee of the General Assembly and for international conferences, e.g. on Population in Mexico and on Advancement of Women in Nairobi, as well as for assisting the Secretary General in the coordination of the United Nations system..

In 1987 he was appointed **Director of the Centre against Apartheid** (1987-1992). He reorganized the Office, strengthening its political role (playing a cardinal role in the preparation of the consensus Declaration on Apartheid at the U.N. Special General Assembly session in 1989, working closely with the then representative of the ANC Mr. Thabo Mbeki), he led with Mr. A. Farah a fact finding mission to South Africa (1989-1990), meeting more than 50 South African personalities and heads of parties and organizations and prepared reports on progress made on the implementation of the Declaration. In June 1990 he received Mr. Nelson Mandela in the Centre and he was a representative of the Secretary General to the first CODESA. During his term he organized several conferences and symposia related to the international campaign (e.g. Student Conference in London, International Conference against Apartheid Sport in Harare and Stockholm, Culture against Apartheid in Athens and Los Angeles, East Asian action against Apartheid in Tokyo, seminars on oil embargo, education, women, political prisoners), traveling exhibits on Apartheid (Germany, UK, Spain, Colombia, Japan, the Netherlands), he supervised the Trust Fund and the research of the Centre. He also prepared drafts of annual and other special reports for the UN Special Committee on Apartheid and other UN bodies.

In 1992 Mr. B. Boutros Ghali appointed him **Deputy Head of the Department of Political Affairs**. He organized the Department, merging three political offices into it; he was responsible for the work of the General Assembly and for political matters (preventive diplomacy and peacemaking for the Americas, Europe and East Asia). He was regularly attending the informal confidential meetings of the Security Council particularly during the period of the dismemberment of Yugoslavia and was one of the three members of the Task Force on Yugoslavia headed by the Secretary General.,

In July 1992 he was appointed as **Personal Representative of the Secretary General for Afghanistan and Pakistan** and **Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan**. In that capacity first, he led UN efforts for political solution of the civil war and establishment of broad based government and second, he coordinated all the UN programs for emergency humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan (mine clearance, voluntarily repatriation, food aid, health, water, sanitation, education and infrastructure). He issued consolidated inter-agency appeals and supervised the fund raising and the delivery and distribution of assistance, organizing among other a camp of sixty thousand internally displaced persons from Kabul, addressing successfully a cholera outbreak, establishing primary and secondary schools in various regions of Afghanistan and initiating efforts to salvage the museum of Kabul and other cultural treasures of the country. Based temporarily in Islamabad and travelling regularly in Afghanistan, he was holding frequent consultations with representatives of Afghan parties, the authorities of Pakistan and visited neighboring countries (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Russia), holding discussions with heads of government.. In February of 1995 (upon the appearance of the Taliban) he resigned and returned to Greece.

Prior to the above duties in the United Nations, he had joined the UN in 1966 as an economist at the **Department of Economic and Social Affairs** in New York. In 1968-1969 he spent one year in Africa as **Deputy Leader of a UN mission for Economic Cooperation of West Africa**; based mainly in Addis Ababa he visited twice ten western African countries. Later he contributed to the World Economic Survey of the United Nations and to several reports on international trade and finance. As **Secretary of the Group of the Eminent Persons on Multinational Corporations** (1973-1975) he provided substantive assistance and was one of the main founders of the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations (TNCs).

Serving as **Assistant Director, Centre on Transnational Corporations** (1975-1981) he was responsible for **research** on the economic, social and political impact of transnational corporations in home and host countries and international relations including the involvement of transnational corporations in Apartheid South Africa. He also led the work on a **code of conduct** and other international agreements on TNCs.

In 1981, on a leave of absence from the UN he was appointed by the Greek government as **Deputy Governor of the Hellenic Industrial Bank (ETBA)** where he also served as President of several bank owned corporations and as the Greek member of the board of directors of the **European Investment Bank** based in Luxembourg.

Since his return in Greece in 1995 Dr. Mousouris held the following positions:

- **Executive President of the Organization for the Construction of the New Museum of Acropolis, Athens** (1995-2000), appointed by the Greek cabinet at the recommendation of the Melina Mercouri Foundation, was charged with the task of preparing the ground and the selection of the architectural design for the new museum.
- **Special Envoy of the Greek Government** (1997-1998), as roving ambassador he visited 17 African countries meeting with presidents and foreign ministers. Between 2000 and 2004 he served on a volunteer basis as ad hoc special counselor of the Foreign Minister. He escorted Mr. G. Papandreou in visits to Yugoslavia, Pakistan, India, Iran, New York and Brussels (during the Greek presidency of the European Union he was in charge of relations with Developing Countries and representative in the Africa Group).
- **Vice-President of the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights** (1997 – to date), representing it in conferences in New York, Geneva and Durban (World Conference against Racism), and contributing regularly as speaker and author in the projects of the Foundation.
- **Open University of Greece**, Member of the Board of Governors (1996-2004). The board was responsible of establishing and managing this public institution of distance learning which started operations in September 1997 and reaching 20 thousand students by 2004.

- **Asia – Europe Foundation (ASEF) Greek Governor** (2001 – to date). ASEF was established by heads of state of the 15 EU members and of 10 East Asian countries. The Board meets twice a year in European and Asian capitals alternately and now includes more than 40 member states. It carries out programs of intellectual exchange, people to people exchange and cultural exchange.
- **President of the Hellenic – African Chamber of Commerce and Development.** A founder of the Chamber (2000) with the support of the South African ambassador to Greece and other African envoys. The Chamber aims at promoting the economic, commercial and cultural links between Greece and the African countries, providing information, organizing conferences and business encounters and serving currently as vice-president of the European Business Council for Africa. In Brussels.

Mr. Mousouris, born in Greece, is a graduate of **Law School** (1957) and of **Political and Economic Sciences of University of Athens** (1959). As a Fulbright scholar he received **Masters Degree in Economics at Boston University** (1962). Between 1962-1966 he studied at the **doctoral program of Harvard Business School** where had received a **Doctoral Degree D.B.A** (1967). His thesis dealt with the export horizons of Greek manufacturing industry involving a revision of the theory of international trade.

Mr. Mousouris, who speaks fluent English, very good French and has a working knowledge of Spanish, was **Lecturer** of Economics in Universities in New York and **author** of several articles and chapters in books on economic development, trade, transnational corporations, human rights and on international political issues. In his various capacities, including President of Harvard Business School Club of Greece and member of the Association of International Law and International Relations he organized conferences and meetings and gave lectures recently in Greece and abroad on UN issues, development and human rights, North-South, Greek foreign policy and global progressive governance and international solidarity.

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