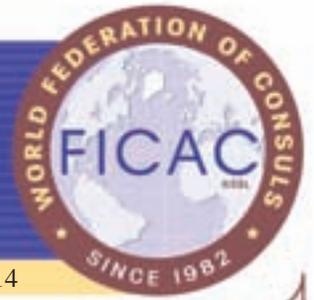




FICAC NEWS



March 2014

Dr. Michael Nobel Honoured Receives the FICAC Order of Merit



50th Anniversary celebrations of the United Nations Vienna Convention on Consular Relations were held at the J.W. Marriott Marquis in Miami Florida on the 1st of February 2014. Dr. Michael Nobel is the first recipient of the FICAC Order of Merit, the commemorative medal of the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 from the President of FICAC, Hon. Arnold Foote, OJ, CD, JP. Also in photograph from left, Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos, Director, Hon. Aykut Eken, Secretary General, Hon. Costas Lefkaritis, Vice President of FICAC.

Several Dignitaries from around the world flew to Miami for the occasion. This historic event was well attended and very successful.

Introduction of Dr. Michael Nobel

by Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos



In picture from left Hon. Aykut Eken, FICAC Secretary General, Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos introducing Dr. Michael Nobel, FICAC President, Honourable Arnold Foote and Hon. Costas Lefkaritis.

In his introduction, Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos said:

Michael Nobel was born in 1941 in Stockholm, Sweden. He is a member of the Nobel family, the great grandson of Industrialist and humanitarian, Ludvig Nobel, the founder of Branobel, and one of the worlds richest men in his time. Ludvig was the brother of Alfred Nobel who invented dynamite, and established 5 prizes in the family name.

After studies in Sweden and America Prof. Nobel obtained a doctorate at the University of Lausanne in psychopedagogy.

He then worked for seven years as a researcher in social sciences at the Institute for Mass Communication at the Lausanne University and at the Department of Social Psychiatry at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine. He was also consultant to UNESCO in Paris and the Geneva

United Nation's Social Affairs Division in the field of drug abuse prevention. For 15 years he also represented the Nobel family as vice chairman and later chairman of its board of directors. He is founder and trustee of the Nobel Sustainable Trust.

Dr. Nobel participated in the introduction of magnetic resonance imaging as European Vice President of Fonar Corp in 1981. From 1991 to 2007 he served as the Executive Chairman of the MRAB Group, a company providing diagnostic imaging services to Swedish hospitals. Today Dr. Nobel is chairman or board member of six international companies in medical diagnostics, treatment and information systems.

In the academic field Dr. Nobel was visiting professor at the Frontier Research Institute at the Tokyo Institute of Technology between 2007 and 2012. He is currently a senior

fellow at the Centre for the Study of World Civilizations at Tokyo Tech and a professor at Seisa University. He regularly gives keynote lectures on various subjects at international conferences around the world.

Michael Nobel sits on several international prize committees and has received many international citations and awards for his work in the fields of medicine and conflict resolution. These include an honorary doctorate from Soka University in Japan and honorary professorships from the National Academy of Science of Azerbaijan and the Alfred Nobel University in Ukraine.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to ask Dr. Michael Nobel to come forward and receive the FICAC Order of Merit, the Commemorative Medal marking the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

President of FICAC welcomes guests to the banquet Honouring Dr. Michael Nobel



FICAC President, The Honourable Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP, Dr. Michael Nobel and Hon. Costas Lefkaritis.

FICAC President Arnold Foote, in his speech, said:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the World Federation of Consuls, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here this evening to our banquet to honour Dr. Michael Nobel.

On 24th April, 1963, the United Nations Conference on Consular Relations adopted and opened for signature, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the Optional Protocol concerning acquisition of nationality and the Optional Protocol concerning the compulsory settlement of disputes.

On 24th April, 2013, The World Federation of Consuls congratulated the United Nations and its member

states on the attainment by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of its Golden Jubilee.

To mark the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, a reception was held by our Federation at the Turkish Centre, opposite the United Nations, at which over 100 countries were represented.

The guest list was headed by H. E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Secretary General H. E. Ban Ki-moon, sent his apologies for not being able to attend due to a previous engagement.

It is important to note that our Federation is the only NGO to

publicly congratulate the United Nations on its achievement.

The Board of Directors of our Federation decided to mark the occasion by honouring 5 outstanding citizens of the world and I am pleased to announce that Dr. Michael Nobel was the first world citizen chosen. Dr. Nobel will receive the FICAC Order of Merit, the commemorative medal marking the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

While the origin of the Consular institution can be traced back to ancient Greece, it was not until the 12th century that the first figure of the Consul emerged and developed to its present and more complex structure. The extraordinary increase



President of World Federation of Consuls Hon. Arnold Foote congratulates Dr. Michael Nobel on his receiving the FICAC Order of Merit. “This award is well deserved Dr. Nobel. We are honored that you are here with us tonight receiving the FICAC Order of Merit” says Hon. Arnold Foote.

of Consulates during the 19th and 20th centuries revealed the need for a precise legal framework specific to the Consular service and the legal status of Consuls.

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 recognized that Honorary Consuls that had been extensively utilized in the past, constituted an efficient instrument in enhancing international relations. Later on, changes in social, political and economic activity created a new challenge for the Consular institution; the protection of citizens and the safeguard of their interest.

The World Federation of Consuls was established in Copenhagen in October 1982 as the Federation Internationale des Corps et Associations Consulaires, abbreviated as FICAC. FICAC was born out of the necessity to bring together Consular Corps and Consular

Associations to share experiences and to coordinate efforts to enhance the effectiveness and status of the Consul. Our Federation is incorporated in Belgium by Royal Decree as a non-profit international organization with its Permanent Secretariat located in Brussels.

The Federation’s business is conducted through several committees, each operating with clearly defined portfolios and terms of reference. Our Board of Directors meets quarterly to evaluate action by the committees and take decisions on their recommendations, in accordance with mandates and policies agreed by the General Assembly at our Triennial World Congress.

Our Federation enjoys United Nations recognition as an NGO with ECOSOC Status. We have similar recognition at the European Union, and we are also

recognized by the Organization of American States.

The World Federation of Consuls has achieved international recognition, credibility and influence. Today, our Federation has over 90 country members, associations and affiliated members with several thousand individual Consul members. Our membership is a network of highly experienced, well connected individuals, whose determined focus, combined expertise and resources can be used to impact the world for good.

The practice of mutual respect and adherence to the principals recognized in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 will continue to guide the promotion of Consular cooperation in each member country.

We have undertaken an extensive programme, to congratulate and thank the United Nations, and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which involves all our members in every region of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Directors and members of our Federation, I would like to again welcome you and thank you for being with us tonight and sincerely hope you will enjoy the evening.

Thank you.



Dr. Michael Nobel praises Consuls.

“You are truly indispensable representatives of the Diplomatic Corps”



In photograph with Dr. Michael Nobel are Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos, Director, Hon. Sylvain Cohen, Director, Hon. Francois Piers, Director and Hon. Aykut Eken, FICAC Secretary General.



Dr. Michael Nobel addressing the audience at the FICAC banquet.

In his speech, Hon. Dr. Michael Nobel said:

Dear Arnold, excellences, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

It is great to be here tonight and I am very honored to participate in this prestigious dinner organized by the International Federation of Consuls.

I have been asked to talk about the Nobel Prize but before I do I would like to express my special thanks to a number of persons here.

I'd like to warmly thank Arnold and Patricia Foote for hosting this event and for doing me this singular honor. My thanks also go to the board of directors of the International Federation of Consuls.

I am very pleased to see so many representatives of the diplomatic corps here but I would also like to thank those here who are not members of FICAC and have come tonight.

Starting with those who have the farthest to travel we have among us Nicolai Korpan from Vienna, Henrik Selstam from Gothenburg with his business associate Erik Fareid from Norway, Vincent Giampapa with partner from New Jersey. From Florida we have Fred Blevens and his wife, Tom Schaefer and last but certainly not least, Robin and Susie Shelley from Coconut Grove. Thank you all very much for being here. I also would like to express some words of admiration for the members of FICAC present. When people talk



Dr. Michael Nobel addressing the audience at the FICAC banquet.

of diplomats they usually refer to ambassadors, charge d'affaires, military and commercial attaches and so on.

But much of the real work is being done by the consuls and their offices. They are facing many of the problems of the world, replacements of lost passports and money, visits to prisoners, attending official luncheons, having to explain and impose rules from the home office and so on. You are the truly indispensable representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Let me give you some background on Alfred Nobel and the prize, which bears his name. Alfred Nobel was my great granduncle, we all come from his two brothers, he was never married.

In 1895 Alfred and his brothers owned or controlled assets of 83 million crowns including being the sole owners of the world's second largest oil company in Russia, assets which today would represent several billion dollars. Alfred's part was 30 million Swedish

crowns, not such a great fortune today but one of the largest in the world at that time.

In Paris in 1895 Alfred Nobel was pondering what he was going to do with his fortune. His brothers and their children were already rich and he had no children of his own. So Alfred created the famous will, which would realize some of the goals to which he had devoted much of his life.

Alfred's reasons for creating the Prize were defined by him in the following way: "To spread enlightenment is to spread prosperity for everyone and with prosperity most of the evil will disappear. The conquests of scientific research... instill in us the hope that the microbes of the body and the soul will gradually be exterminated and that the only war humanity will wage in the future will be the war against those microbes".

Several studies have shown that the name Nobel is one of the most well known and respected the world over. The main reason for this is of course these Nobel Prizes. There are literally many hundreds of prizes and awards, among which there are dozens of peace prizes but only one stands far above any of the others.

The prize sum today amounts to roughly \$1 million, tax free, except of course in the US.

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future will be the war against those microbes". Nice sentiment I think.

Why did he choose the five subjects he did, chemistry, physics, literature, medicine and peace? Why not, for example, mathematics or astronomy or biology?

The answer is simple.

He chose chemistry and physics because he worked in those fields and saw himself primarily to be a chemist and a physicist.

He chose literature because he was also deeply interested in literature, he read voraciously and had a very large collection of books.

His interest in medicine was reinforced by the fact that he was in poor health, somewhat of a hypochondriac and constantly complaining about various ailments. He found it ironic that the doctors prescribed nitroglycerine for his vaso-constrictory-based headaches since he felt his work with the acids producing the substance, had in fact caused them.

His interest in peace came from several sources, he was influenced by the pacific poetry of the English poet Percy Shelley, by his long standing friendship with Bertha von Sutter, who won the Nobel peace prize in 1905 and a genuine personal desire to promote peace. He had no particular interest in mathematics or astronomy or other subjects.

Why the unique prestige of the Nobel Prize? Why is it that the Nobel Prize shines all alone at the top, far above any other?

First, a very long tradition. Each Nobel laureate becomes member of a large group of famous people whose collective accomplishments and reputation is reflected upon him or her and their descendants.

A second reason is the solemnity of the proceedings, it is a rather splendid ceremony, the Swedish king bestows the prizes, with the royal family attending together with leading politicians, scientists, academicians, the banquet is resplendent with classic music, performance of international artists, beautiful surroundings, the best food and wine that Sweden can offer and so forth.

A third reason is the thoroughness in the selection of the candidates: each procedure involves dozens of external experts, takes the better part of a year to do and costs the equivalent of the prize itself, over a million dollars.

There is also a strict formal separation between the family who gave the

money, the foundation who manages it and organizes the ceremonies and the committees who select the winners. No undue cross influence is thereby possible, as with some other prizes.

The prizes are furthermore truly international; they are given to anyone regardless of race, nationality, creed and sex. No restrictions that might have lessened the reputation of the award.

The significant prize amount is another reason. A million dollars is still a fairly substantial sum, tax-free in all countries except one, can you guess which one, the US of course.

United States far dominate the number of scientific prizes received with almost 70 % of the total. In the US, Harvard tops the list followed by UCLA, Cal Tech. MIT, Chicago and Stanford. After Harvard, Cambridge University in the United Kingdom comes second in the total number of prizes won.



Dr. Vincent Giampapa, Ms. Monica Alfonso and Dr. Michael Nobel.



In photograph from left, Hon. Aykut Eken, FICAC Secretary General, Dr. Elaine Davis, Chairperson FICAC South Caribbean Region, Dr. Michael Nobel, Dr. Cecilia Rokusak, Honourary Consul for the Slovak Republic in Miami Florida.

A frequently asked question is why these five particular subjects were chosen by Alfred and not others, for example mathematics or astronomy or biology.

The answer is simple. He chose chemistry and physics because he worked in those fields all his life and saw himself primarily to be a scientist. He chose literature because he was also deeply interested in literature and had a very large collection of books, he read voraciously, wrote poems and a play called the Nemesis, a rather mediocre melodrama which, perhaps fortunately, was never shown in public during his lifetime.

His interest in medicine was also great and was reinforced by the fact that he was often in poor health, somewhat of a hypochondriac and constantly

complaining about various ailments. He found it ironic that the doctors prescribed nitroglycerine for his headaches, since he felt his work with the acids producing nitroglycerine had in fact caused these problems.

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As a parenthesis, the so-called Nobel Prize in economics is really the Swedish Central Bank's prize in memory of Alfred Nobel and was created in the

1970ties. He himself was never really interested in making money except to advance science.

How could then a man, as genuinely interested in peace as Alfred Nobel, purchase one of the world's largest arms manufacturers, the Swedish Bofors company?

He did this because he believed that in providing each country with so many weapons that they could not attack each other, a primitive form of terror balance, and he dreamed about inventing a weapon so terrible as to make war between nations impossible.

Ladies and gentlemen, this was only a brief recital of the life of Alfred Nobel, and thank you for your attention.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves reads the citation to Dr. Michael Nobel. Also in photo from left Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos, Hon. Sylvain Cohen, Hon. Francois Piers, Hon. Aykut Eken, Hon. Arnold Foote and Hon. Costas Lefkaritis.



From left Hon. Francois Piers and Mrs. Piers, Hon. Thomas Amaral Neves and Mrs. Neves.



Mr. David Tate, Dr. Michael Nobel, Mr. Alan Byles and FICAC President, Hon. Arnold Foote OJ, CD, JP.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



From left Mrs. Patricia Foote, Dr. Vincent Giampapa, Dr. Michael Nobel, Ms. Monica Alfonso and Prof. Nikolai Korpan.



Ms. Jackie Perle, Mrs. Joan Mahfood and Mrs. Patricia Foote.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Amaral Neves with Dr. Michael Nobel.



In photograph from left is Hon. Don Chee-A-Tow Barbados CC, Mrs. Karen Wright, Dr. Michael Nobel Hon. Rosendo Alvarez and Thomas Amaral Neves.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



Dr. Michael Nobel, Hon. Gonul Eken, Hon. Aykut Eken and Mr. Eyup Ozturk.



Dr. Cecilia Rokusak, Ambassador Umberto Vattani and Mr. Michael Youngman.



Hon. Sonia Brouwer, Dr. Michael Nobel and Hon. Wilhelm Brouwer.



From left Dr. Michael Nobel, Mrs. Margo Youngman, Hon. Arnold Foote and Mrs. Foote and Hon. Elaine Davis.



FICAC NEWS IN PICTURES



From left, Prof. Fred Blevens, Ms. Monica Alfonso, Mrs. Blevens and Mr. and Mrs. Robin Shelley.



From left having a great moment together is Hon. Gonul Eken, Hon. Nikolaos Margaropoulos and Hon. Sylvain Cohen.



Mrs. Joan Mahfood, Mrs. Patricia Foote, Mr. Jalil Dabdoub and Mrs. Diana Dabdoub.