

Sweden in the Security Council

By Ioana Zamfir, BBC



The Swedish diplomat Jessica Hedin, Kaisa Tokar in charge of Communications, and two interns discussed with 3 young delegates at a lounge in the Embassy of Sweden in Ottawa

The Swedish diplomat Jessica Hedin, counselor to Ambassador Per Sjögren, greeted two delegations today at the Swedish Embassy. She expressed, on behalf of the Embassy, their pride in joining the Security Council.

Hedin reminded the delegates of the fierce campaign Sweden has led to enter the Security Council; a campaign that rests on their long-standing commitment to the United Nations, notably through their core funding, which, as she emphasized, holds no ties to a specific aid or United Nations body.

Their dedication and funding as a whole represents their desire and belief that the United Nations needs such implications to become strong and effective in the missions they are undertaking.

Jessica Hedin asserted, during the meeting, “Everything we do must have a gender focus.”

The Swedish diplomat emphasized their feminist foreign policy, which she said would most certainly be reflected in their discussion in the Security Council. An issue she mentioned to the delegates was the Swedish need to provide stable sexual reproductive help.

Sweden will strive to promote women’s rights and push forward the agenda of women, peace and security. Jessica Hedin believes it is crucial for women's involvement in such matters, for she believes women have an impact on peace and on the conciliation of issues.

LA COUR INTERNATIONALE DE JUSTICE À LA COUR SUPRÊME DU CANADA

Par Jenna Rossi, Le Monde



Les juges du comité de la Cour Internationale de Justice assistent à une tournée immersive de la Cour Suprême du Canada

Le 24 février, les juges de la Cour Internationale de Justice (CIJ) ont visité la Cour Suprême du Canada. Menés en tournée par Valérie Pelchat, une étudiante en droit à l’Université d’Ottawa, les Justices ont visité la Cour, construite entre 1938 et 1941. Lors de la tournée, les juges ont assisté à des présentations sur le système légal canadien, l’histoire de la Cour et de ses édifices et les juges de la Cour à travers les années. Mlle. Pelchat a ensuite terminé sa tournée avec une explication des deux critères nécessaires pour devenir juge à la Cour Suprême du Canada et a entretenu des questions de la part des visiteurs. À la fin de la tournée les visiteurs ont assisté à un procès en cours, à laquelle étaient présents les neuf juges de la Cour Suprême. « *Je crois que l’expérience bénéficiera tous les juges de la CIJ, l’expérience de voir comment des actes de procédure procèdent dans la Cour Suprême du Canada, comment les questions sont soulevées par les juges et leur méthodes d’enquêtes est fascinante.* » a partagé un des juges. « *[La tournée] était incroyablement immersive [...] Avoir la chance d’assister à un procès et d’observer des actes de procédure était très intéressante, tout comme l’était entendre la rhétorique et les questions des juges.* »

Fox News journalist visits Zambian Embassy

By Elyette Levy

A visit to the High Commission for the Republic of Zambia in Ottawa focused on discussions regarding the current refugee crisis, climate change, and the country’s foreign relations. Despite 60.5% of the country’s population being under the poverty line, the country is still taking in refugees from neighboring countries. The First Secretary of Education, Mrs. Grace Chintu Ng’andu, referred to the refugees as “hard-working” because they were likely to get jobs, sometimes even more so than the country’s native citizens. On the subject of climate change, the Secretary stated that Concerning Zambia’s stance on the United States, the Secretary said that their relationships had always been good, the US having paid for a lot of their projects, such as the one fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which cost the US \$313 million in 2015. About the country’s opinion on the recent change in government, Ng’andu said, “It’s a wait-and-see kind of situation”, and that, their ties to the US having always been positive, she believed it should continue to be this way.

Justices pay visit to Supreme Court

By Jaspreet Dhillon, The Globe and Mail



Valérie Pelchat, a Law Student at the University of Ottawa, began by welcoming all of the attending justices into the Supreme Court.

The delegates in attendance had the honour to witness a live case hearing immediately after the completion of the tour – leaving them with a deeper insight of the process. The case concerned a Canadian pharmaceutical company who had been accused of committing a six million dollar fraud.

“I had the honor to witness a Lawyer who graduated from McGill with a degree in common and civil law. I think he did an excellent job at presenting the arguments for the respondent, despite the harsh questions coming from the bench,” explained Myriam Babin, the Judge for ICJ at CANIMUN.

ICJ criticizes Supreme Court Judges’ position eligibility

By Nykole King, Russia Today

Delegates of the International Court of Justice scrutinized the eligibility of the Supreme Court Judges today while on a tour of the Supreme Court of Canada. These delegates were led on a tour, but as the tour progressed, the delegates questioned the criteria enforced upon the judges.

The point of conflict arose from the regional representation because while it is mandatory to have three judges from Quebec, it is only tradition to have three judges from Ontario, and one judge each from the Atlantic and the western provinces.

Some delegates were also confused as to what protocol is when judges reach the mandatory age of retirement at 75, and why Justice Cromwell has chosen to retire this fall at age 64. The tour guide explained that typically, judges would plan their retirement to begin before session starts in the fall.

Delegates learned that these judges are appointed by the Prime Minister of Canada and then must be approved by the Governor General of Canada. Judges must have practiced law for at least 10 years, however they do not need to have been a judge prior to being elected to the Supreme Court.

An invaluable experience for all

By Biti Issa, Al Jazeera

You could feel the electricity in the air this morning at Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa as the 2017 CANIMUN conference began. The first diplomatic briefing of the weekend took place at the hotel with several guest speakers such as Rebecca Netley, Edurardo Huot and John Gosal.

The ambience of the morning was inspirational. Instead of spending the whole morning talking about themselves and their success, the speakers spent a lot of time discussing the unusual routes one may take to achieve their dreams. It was refreshing and encouraging watching them speak on their very real experiences and not only the glitz and glam of their professions. Not only did the audience seem like they were enjoying themselves, but they also had this look in their eyes, a look of hope. It was as if their dreams seemed a little bit closer to. The panelist brought humbleness and realness into their discussions. The guest speakers were able to provide informative responses to the delegates’ questions. This proves to be one of the most fruitful and rewarding parts of attending a conference like this. The guest speakers not only spoke candidly, about their experiences which all delegate members benefitted from. Overall an invaluable experience that all delegates will remember for years to come.

CANIMUN 2017 Starts With a “Personal Talk”

By Moiz Lakhani, The Economist

CANIMUN began with delegates hearing from distinguished speakers that have either been diplomats themselves or have experience working in related fields. All three speakers practicality painted vivid images of what working in the field of diplomacy is all about. Rebecca Netley a Canadian diplomat shared her experiences negotiating the UNGA treaty for the disabled. Throughout her speech she offered simplistic yet significant advice for negotiation: “Most importantly do your research”, she explained to the delegates. “You want to utilize the same language” she remarked, expressing the importance of language and idea’s during negotiations.

John Gosal who works at the Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers, has also had the opportunity to head the Economics affair from the Canadian embassy to Pakistan. From the get-go he engaged the delegates by talking about his experience while at the same time adding some humour. He shaped a vivid image of what diplomacy is truly like, in contrary to what most delegates make out the romanticized view of diplomacy.

The speakers also offered personal advice to the delegates. Rebecca Netley stated “Look for opportunities and have end goals in sight”, later remarking how this is one of the best pieces of advise she could offer.