



Speculation grows in race to succeed Kofi Annan August 14, 2006

South Korean foreign minister Ban Ki Moon and UN undersecretary Shashi Tharoor of India are the early leaders in the race to succeed United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan who retires at the end of this year.

In late July the 15 members of the Security Council conducted a secret straw poll on who should succeed Annan. Monday's edition of the the Guardian newspaper reports the leaked results which have Ban leading with 12 "encourages", 1 "discourage" and 2 "no opinions" ahead of Tharoor's 10 "encourages", 2 "discourages" and 3 "no opinions". The other two official candidates thus far are Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai and former U.N. disarmament chief Jayantha Dhanapala from Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore is also a possible contender, according to the Guardian but has not officially declared his interest.

Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand dismissed a report, Monday, that she was lobbying for the position calling it "a piece of fiction". The New Zealand Herald reported in its weekend edition that Clark had sought support for her possible candidacy from British Prime Minister Tony Blair during a recent visit to London.

Coincidentally, Ban was in Auckland Monday seeking New Zealand's support for his bid. New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters met with Ban but made no public comment on his country's position on the contest.

Traditionally, the position of Secretary-General rotates among the continents suggesting that Annan's successor will likely be an Asian, the first since U Thant filled the post from 1961 to 1971.

Wellington, New Zealand university student missing August 14, 2006

Police are concerned over the disappearance of a 19-year-old student. Daniel Antonious Hansman has not been seen since 11.30 p.m. last Thursday. He was last seen outside Coyote Bar on Courtney Place after he and his friend were refused entry because they were intoxicated. After several other unsuccessful attempts to get into other bars, his friend left for the toilet, but when he returned, Hansman was missing.

Hansman is from New Plymouth and is a student at Victoria University of Wellington. He has not attended his lectures, contacted his friends or family or gone to his flat since his disappearance.

Shane Cotter, Wellington Detective Senior Sergeant, said: "It's out of character for Daniel to disappear

without any explanation. Mr Hansman had been out with two female friends and a male friend in the Courtenay Place area on Thursday night. The women were allowed into a bar."

Hansman was probably carrying his cellphone with him, but it is not being answered. He may also have his driver's licence, but police are not sure if he had any other property or ID.

Hansman is a 177-centimetre European of medium build. He has blue eyes, brown-black medium length hair, a goatee and is unshaven. He was last seen wearing dark jeans, a dark blue-black shirt with white and grey stripes and black dress shoes.

Two Fox News journalists kidnapped in Gaza August 14, 2006

Palestinian gunmen have reportedly kidnapped two foreign journalists working for Fox News, a news company owned by parent-company News Corp.

A Palestinian witness who worked with the journalists, said that American reporter Steve Centanni, and Olaf Wiig, a cameraman from New Zealand were taken against their will.

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokeswoman Helen Tunnah said that the ministry had not received any information on the kidnapping.

Fox News said that they did not know who captured the journalists but said that "We can confirm that two of our people were taken against their will in Gaza," and that "negotiations were under way to secure their release."

The incident began when two vehicles blocked the transmission truck, labelled 'TV', and their bodyguard was forced to the ground at gunpoint by a masked man.

The gunman then drove away with the journalists.

Palestinian police stopped and searched cars. Hamas, the Islamic militant group that heads Gaza's government, did not claim responsibility, and condemned the kidnapping. There are no claims for responsibility at this time.

Fox News Vice President John Moody said in an internal message to Fox News personnel that "The rumors are true: two of our employees have been abducted in Gaza. We will report this fact via our Israel correspondents. Do NOT do any other segments on it. Do not book guests on this topic. Do not comment officially and of course, not on the air, about it. DO pray for their release. I will keep you posted."

WorldNetDaily, an online news site, has reported that Al Aqsa sources have told their correspondent Aaron Klein that independent elements within Al Aqsa carried out the kidnapping.

New Zealand pilot selling uniform online August 15, 2006

"Jeremy", an airplane pilot in Nelson, has put his uniform on sale for NZ\$1.00 at New Zealand auction site TradeMe. The pilot had lost his job when Origin Pacific

Airways fired 230 staff because of financial difficulties and is now trying to "make ends meet this week," the pilot said. The auction has already reached 31 bids and reached \$101 as of 7.30 a.m. August 15.

'Jeremy', the pilot, said on the auction page, that he is offering "a rare piece of Kiwi aviation history,".

"This is an authentic Origin Pacific Jetstream pilot's uniform lovingly drycleaned for one last time before its unfortunate retirement. It's travelled many stormy nights and many sunrises and has seen almost 50,000 Kiwis safely to their destinations from Invercargill to the Far North. It has 778,000km on it, yet it looks as crisp today as it did when it was born," the pilot described on TradeMe.

One bidder had offered \$40 if he sold the uniform immediately but that offer was turned down in order to see the auction go until Sunday.

David Collier, Origin Pacific passenger services general manager, said "The uniform was Origin Pacific's property and the pilot should not be selling it, but I think it's probably one of those things you'd have to grin at and move on."

Jay, Waitakere, asked on the auction page if the uniform came with a plane. The pilot replied "No, but if you want to start an airline I know where you can find a great bunch of people."

The auction is closing on August 20, Sunday.

New Zealand Maori Queen dies August 15, 2006

The New Zealand Māori Queen, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu died on Tuesday at 5.32 p.m.

(NZST) following a long illness. She was 75 years old.

The Māori Queen holds no constitutional function in New Zealand, but Dame Te Atairangikaahu was an avid supporter of cultural and sporting events; the 40th anniversary of her coronation was celebrated in May.

She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Waikato University in 1973, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Victoria University in 1999. She was one of the first inductees of the Order of New Zealand when it was established in 1987.

In December 2005, she started dialysis treatment when her kidneys began to fail. Dame Te Ata received dialysis treatment three times a week and had been in hospital several times in the past year.

On 11 July 2006, Te Atairangi Kaahu suffered a possible heart attack and was admitted to intensive care in Waikato Hospital, Hamilton. She was discharged from hospital later in the month, in time to celebrate her 75th birthday. She died at her home in Ngaruawahia.

New Zealand 'Boobs on Bikes' parade approved August 16, 2006

The Auckland 'Boobs on Bikes' parade for next weeks annual sex industry convention, Erotica Expo which features naked woman on motorcycles has been approved by Auckland City Council's events and promotion staff despite disapproval by Auckland Mayor, Dick Hubbard and 13 other Auckland City Council councillors.

The mayor and the other councillors have signed a petition

to withdraw the permit. Hubbard said "I think such a parade down Queen Street is totally inappropriate because it's shamelessly promoting a pornography trade fair. It's particularly degrading to women."

However, the organiser of the expo, Steve Crow, says Mr Hubbard's opposition is morally based.

All other previous parades had been held informally. Steve Crow, organiser of the parade and expo said "He only asked the council and the police if they wished to be involved as a matter of courtesy, and the parade will go ahead regardless. It's legal under New Zealand law. They can basically go to hell; we're going to do it." Crow said the only reason they asked for permission this year is to have police involvement for spectators' safety.

A spokeswoman for the Mayor said "The proposed route for the tour would pass a kindergarten and school. It's the councillors that have got upset about it due to huge public reaction by people saying they didn't want it," the council has received numerous complaints to the parade.

Bob McCoskrie, Family First national director said "[We are] offering support for the topless porn girls by making bras and sweatshirts available. Typical of Auckland weather, there's a high likelihood it'll either be cold and/or wet. We're genuinely concerned for their welfare and health."

The Councillors are meeting today, August 16, to try and withdraw the permit that gives the parade green lights throughout Queen Street. Their decision is due sometime late today.

Body of missing New Zealand student found August 17, 2006

New Zealand Police have found the body of missing Wellington, New Zealand, student Daniel Hansman in Wellington Harbour.

Detective Senior Sergeant Shane Cotter, of Wellington CIB, said the body was found shortly after 9.05 a.m. NZST.

The divers had only been in the water a short period of time when they found the body in 10m of water.

New Zealand army Unimog crash leaves one soldier dead August 17, 2006

Private Meredith Simms, 18-years-old, died yesterday when the New Zealand Army Mercedes-Benz Unimog truck he was travelling in left the road and fell 100-metres down a steep bank 2.30 p.m. yesterday (NZST), coming to rest on railway tracks. The soldier driving the truck was critically injured and was flown by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter to Wellington Hospital, where he is being treated for spinal cord injuries.

The Unimog was travelling in a convoy 14-kilometres southeast of Blenheim on State Highway 1, Weld Pass.

The New Zealand police have launched an inquiry into the fatal accident. The Unimog has been removed from the scene of the crash and will now be examined. The police say that they will guard the scene and finish examining it today.

The accident occurred when the Unimog was returning back to the Burnham Military Camp, Christchurch, where all soldiers

were from. It followed a ten day exercise which involved 15 vehicles in Marlborough. The other soldiers went to the RNZAF Base Woodbourne base to receive counselling from a military chaplain, military psychologist and police victim support, they are returning to Burnham today.

The family of the deceased said their son "died doing what he loved," and have requested privacy.

Simms' death has been referred to a coroner.

Since 1994 there have been eight fatal accidents involving Unimogs.

Two New Zealand men ran illegal text lottery August 18, 2006

Two New Zealand men, Richard Stuart Hayes and Troy Jonathon Elliot, have been convicted of running an illegal mobile text based competition after 27 winners did not receive the car prizes. The pair were found guilty yesterday in a decision reached by Judge Nicola Mathers in Auckland District Court, following a February hearing.

The two convicts, whose names were suppressed until yesterday, are the directors of the company which ran the 'TxtDrive' competition in March 2004, the Watch and Win Company. The company had hoped to gain a profit of NZ\$2.5 million, but due to lack of interest and entrants they could not afford to honour the daily prizes as they had only raised \$414,595.

"I am satisfied that the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has proved to me beyond reasonable doubt that Mr Hayes and Mr Elliot organised an illegal lottery. I consider they

deliberately entered into the scheme and were careless as to the legality of this novel scheme." Judge Mathers said.

During the 27-day competition, cellphone users had to send a \$0.99 text message during television adverts on TV 2 for the opportunity to win a Peugeot car a day or free products from Pizza Hut.

Settlements have been reached with the winners; only one received a car.

Hayes and Elliot argued that it was not a lottery but a sales promotion, which means it didn't need to be licensed by the DIA.

Mark Woolford, DIA lawyer, said "Internal Affairs had to prove that the Hayes and Elliot organised the competition, that it was a lottery under the definition of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1977, and that it was not authorised as a lottery by Internal Affairs."

A sales promotion is defined as "Any competition promoted by a manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler or retailer for the purpose of promoting the sale of goods or services." Judge Mathers said she was satisfied the TxtDrive competition was an illegal lottery.

The two men are to appear back in court on 6 October, they face either a fine of \$4,000 or three months in prison under the maximum penalties.

All Blacks win 2006 Tri Nations rugby series August 19, 2006

The New Zealand All Blacks have defeated Australia to win the rugby union 2006 Tri Nations. The end result was a close 34 to 27 win for the home side, which was played at Auckland's Eden Park. It is the fourth series win in five

years for the All Blacks. The All Blacks entered the match having already wrapped up the Bledisloe Cup two weeks prior in Brisbane, and could well win the Tri Nations should they win this match, despite the South African leg of the series starting next week. The Wallabies had not won at Eden Park in 20 years, whilst the All Blacks had not lost a Test at home in over three years.

The All Blacks performed the controversial Kapa O Pango haka before the game in front of the sold out Eden Park. The scoring kicked off in the third minute of play, with Stirling Mortlock booting a penalty goal to give the Wallabies an early lead of three to nil. The equaliser came in the 6th minute, with Dan Carter kicking a penalty goal for the All Blacks. The Australian Wallabies were back in front by the 15 minute mark, Mortlock kicking another penalty goal to take Australia six points to three in front. In the fourth penalty goal in 20 minutes, Carter leveled things once again, six-points all. A intercept by Lote Tuqiri turned into a runaway try for Australia, scoring the first try of the match. Mortlock converted the try, making the score 13 points to six, 26 minutes in the game. Carter missed a penalty goal in the 32nd minute. Two minutes later the All Blacks barged over with Jason Eaton scoring the All Blacks' first try of the match. Carter missed the conversion, so Australia held onto a slim 13 to 11 lead. Australia went searching for their second try before half-time, Rocky Elsom getting over the line, though it went up to the video referee. The try was awarded, though some believe there was not enough control when the try was scored. Mortlock converted, and the Wallabies were now leading 20 points to 11.

Six minutes into the second half, Carter kicked a successful penalty goal, narrowing the gap to 14 to 20. Carter again narrowed the scorline in the 53rd minute, kicking another penalty goal. The All Blacks now trailing by just three points, 17 to 20. The All Blacks came close to scoring in the 60th minute, though the ball was knocked-on close to the line. Minutes later Chris Jack put the All Blacks back in front, scoring the first try of the second half. Carter converted and the All Blacks now led the match 24 points to 20. In the 68th minute, Luke McAlister scored an intercept try, and with Carter's conversion, the All Blacks moved ahead 31 points to 20. However, in the 73rd minute, Tuqiri got his second try, and with Mortlock's conversion, there was a new hope for the Wallabies. The score now 31 points to 27, with under 10 minutes remaining. Phil Waugh was sent off in the final minutes of the match. A Carter conversion took the score line out to 34 to 27. Full-time was soon called, and the All Blacks had held onto the win. Despite the All Blacks win, the rugby is far from over, with more games to be played in the Republic.

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