

Working on a resolution

Norwegian diplomat Terje Rød-Larsen is the representative of United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559

ELSE HVISTENDAHL
New York, NY

Norwegian diplomat Terje Rød-Larsen holds a very demanding position at the United Nations. He is the Special Envoy for the Secretary General for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559. This resolution was adopted on Sept. 2, 2004 amid concern about the ongoing tensions within Lebanon, and calls for free and fair elections without interference from foreign groups, and for the disbanding of all militia.

In a comprehensive report, Mr. Rød-Larsen told the United Nations Security Council that Lebanon has made no tangible progress towards disarming militias operating on its territory. He warned that the continued activities of these groups could undermine the staging of parliamentary elections scheduled for next year. In his report to the Security Council, the Secretary General's envoy gave a long, detailed explanation of the existing situation.

It was the eighth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General to the Security

Council on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004) for the information of the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Rød-Larsen noted that the objective of Resolution 1559 is to reaffirm the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon, under the exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon. He said that Lebanon needs to make more progress towards disbanding and disarming militias operating on its territory.

Mr. Rød-Larsen noted that Lebanon and Syria recently held high-level talks on Lebanese sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity and have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations for the first time.

However, the Syrian/Lebanese border remains easily penetrated and militia groups are allowed to straddle the border. Terje Rød-Larsen also said that Israeli aircraft continue to violate Lebanese air space by conducting overflights. He added that this must end.

VISIT LARVIK ...

(...continued from page 11)

Focusing on Heyerdahl

Larvik is once again focusing on Thor Heyerdahl, and during a three year generator project, the city will "bring" him home. The city's aim is to make it known both in Norway and abroad that he was born in Larvik, and to create attractions and experiences based on core values such as innovation, adventurousness, openness and tolerance.

Earlier this year the local Library opened its "Heyerdahl-collection" to the public - a collection of over 350 books, videos and dvds by and about Thor Heyerdahl. The project also launched its own website: www.heyerdahltown.com, which aims to connect all the Heyerdahl concerns around the world to his birth town.

com, which aims to connect all the Heyerdahl concerns around the world to his birth town.

Easy to get to

Getting to Larvik is easier than you might think! Only two short hours from Oslo on the E18 highway, Larvik is easily reachable by car, train and plane. With a direct train link to the Gardemoen International Airport north of Oslo and only 25 minutes by car or train from the Sandefjord Torp Airport, Larvik is well connected to many international destinations. The recent addition of the Color Line Superspeed Ferry, in summer 2008, means that Larvik is now only four hours from Hirtshals in Denmark.

A jolly yulefest

Seattle's Nordic Heritage Museum knows how to get the party started

TIFFANIE CLARK
Managing Editor

It was nothing but holiday cheer at the annual Yulefest at Seattle's Nordic Heritage Museum Nov. 22 and 23. This Nordic Christmas tradition attracted hundreds of community members, Scandinavian and otherwise. The event featured children's craft stations, live music and entertainment, authentic shopping booths and traditional baked goods and food.

The museum was stirring with Christmas excitement as children lined up to see Santa and people selected Christmas gifts for friends and family.



All photos credit Tiffanie Clark.



These little darlings were just two of the many little ones that got the chance to tell Santa what they hoped to receive for Christmas.

Right: As families shuffled through the festive halls, this musical duo got everyone into the Christmas spirit. They performed Scandinavian tunes that got everyone smiling!



Below: This event truly catered to families and especially young children. This accordion player sang children's songs and the performance couldn't have been sweeter.



Marianne Olsen spread a little Christmas joy serving up food at the Kuffestuga.



UNIQUE SCANDINAVIA


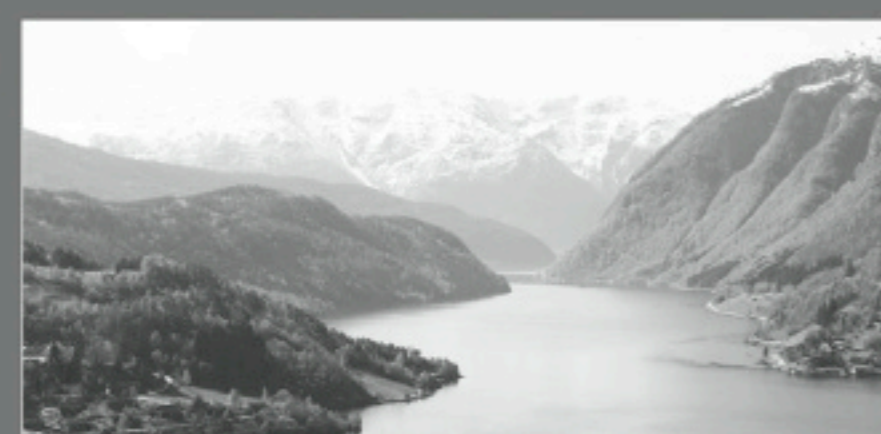

Kjell Bergh's
BORTON OVERSEAS
Journeys to Extraordinary Lands

- INDEPENDENT TOUR PLANNING SERVICES
- CRUISES
- SUMMER & WINTER ADVENTURE PACKAGES
- ESCORTED & INDEPENDENT TOURS
- CUSTOM GROUP TOURS
- CITY PACKAGES

Where Dreams and Reality Meet...

BORTON OVERSEAS IS A RECIPIENT OF THE SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES ROYAL VIKING AWARD

800-843-0602 FAX (612) 822-4755 • INFO@BORTONOVERSEAS.COM • WWW.BORTONOVERSEAS.COM