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The United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) is delighted to announce that, on 28 January 2006, the UNA-UK Board of Directors appointed Lord Hannay of Chiswick as Chair of the United Nations Association of the UK, following the expiry of the term of office of Sir Richard Jolly.

Upon his appointment Lord Hannay stated, "I am greatly honoured to have been chosen to chair the United Nations Association of the UK and hope that I will do justice to your confidence. UNA, which is above all a membership organisation, has a vital role to play in explaining and promoting here in the UK the objectives of the UN Charter; and in prompting and shaping responses to the ever-changing challenges that face the international community. Last year's public dialogue on UN reform has marked a change of gear for UNA and I hope we will be able to build on that foundation in the period ahead."

Short biography of David Hannay

Hannay was born in London on 28 September 1935 and educated at Winchester College and New College, Oxford. He entered the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1959, and was initially posted to positions in Tehran and Kabul. Starting in 1965 and continuing into the early 1970s, he was involved in the discussions that led to the UK's entry into the European Communities.

During the 1970s he did a four-year spell in the European Commission in Brussels; and was involved with energy and Middle Eastern policy. He was minister at the British Embassy in Washington DC in 1984-5, and was then promoted to ambassador and permanent representative to the European Communities from 1985-90. He then spent the next five years as ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations.

Following his retirement from the diplomatic service he was the British Special Representative for Cyprus between 1996 and 2003 and a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which submitted its report in December 2004. In 2001 he was created a life peer. He has been pro-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham since 2001. In 2003 he was made a Companion of Honour.