When the United Nations was electing nonpermanent members to the Security Council last October, the United States strongly opposed the entry of Sudan, a country under UN sanctions for its terrorist activities. Any country elected would need to win by a two-thirds secret vote in the General Assembly.

The United States position, as stated by Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, was “ABS: Anybody but Sudan.” Larry Carp, JD ’51, a public member of the United States delegation to the 55th United Nations General Assembly and a Clayton immigration lawyer, reports that Mauritius was the U.S. candidate for entry.

For this vote on Security Council membership, Carp knew how important it was to the United States for Sudan to be denied a seat. First, he explains, a country sanctioned by the Security Council for its terrorist activities shouldn’t vote on security matters. Second, he says, our nation’s opinion of the United Nations would diminish if Sudan, a terrorist nation, were granted a seat on such a pivotal UN body.

A mere two months into his tenure at the United Nations, Carp was instrumental in gaining a key vote against Sudan’s entry. Before the final votes were cast, he visited with an ambassador with whom he had forged a friendly relationship. Carp let the ambassador know that the United States wasn’t inquiring about how his country had previously voted, but asked him to let Carp know if his country “did the right thing from then on.”

After the next vote, a member of the ambassador’s delegation informed Carp that he had been instructed to advise the United States that his country had indeed cast its vote for Mauritius, an island of around a million people off the coast of Madagascar. And Mauritius was elected to the Security Council—by one vote.

Appointed by then-President Bill Clinton to his UN post...
in August 2000, Carp served in the U.S. delegation to
the General Assembly for one year. The United States has
12 delegates; three, including Carp, are “public delegates.”

“It was a tremendous honor,” Carp says of his appointment. “I worked very
hard to be worthy of it.”

During Carp’s swearing-in ceremony, Ambassador Holbrooke said, “Larry has
been an extraordinary help to us. I have come to depend on his leadership and
intelligence and good counsel.”

Carp served regularly at the United Nations in New York from August
through December 2000, when most of the work of the General Assembly was
done, and then remained on call through August 2001.

Public delegates for the United States, Carp explains, work on issues,
vote, and give speeches in the General Assembly and UN committees to state
and clarify U.S. positions on important issues. Carp worked on a range of issues, including those
related to the Middle East; the former Yugoslavia; and
the admission of Hadassah, a women’s group, as a non-
governmental organization.

In Carp’s estimation, Ambassador Holbrooke, who served until January 20,
2001, Chargé d’Affaires James B. Cunningham, and the entire U.S.
diplomacy have been doing a
terrific job in carrying out U.S.
national interest in the UN.”

He was glad to be a part of
that delegation. “My phi-
losophy was that I didn’t
want to merely serve as a
public delegate,” says
Carp. “I wanted to make
a difference.”

Public affairs is only one
of Carp’s passions. His other
two are law and musicals.

A senior partner in the
Clayton firm of Carp & Sexauer,
Carp specializes in immigration law.
He is known as an immigration lawyer
with a knack of winning cases on the basis
of his research.

Carp merged his passions for law and public affairs
when he served 13 years as member and vice chairman of
the Missouri Commission on Human Rights under three
governors from both major parties. The commission is
charged with investigating alleged violations of human rights
in the state, ranging from harassment on
the job to discrimination in housing.

In many ways, his UN appoint-
ment marked a culmination of his life’s
work, drawing as it did on his legal
expertise, his ability to work with people
from other countries, and his interest in
public affairs.

This wasn’t Carp’s first experience
with the UN. Between receiving his
undergraduate degree in political
science and his law degree, both from
Washington University, he served in
1948 as a UN intern at Lake Success,
New York. In 1948 and 1949 he worked
with the UN General Assembly in Paris
and then as assistant to the legal adviser
to the UN Conciliation Commission
at the Arab–Israeli talks in Lausanne,
Switzerland, and as assistant to the UN observer at the
International Red Cross Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Carp is not an all-work-and-no-play attorney. Writing
musicals—everything from book to music to
lyrics—is his play and his third passion.
Some of his musicals showcase little-
examined legends and commentaries
on the Old Testament. In one, he
explores Adam’s alleged roman-
tic trysts with Lilith. In
another, he looks at the rela-
tionship between Judah and
his daughter-in-law Tamar.
Carp’s musicals have been
produced both live and
on television in Missouri.
And he has been invited
dreamWorks—the
mega-entertainment com-
pany formed by Steven
Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg,
and David Geffen that has
produced hits like
Gladiator
and The Prince of Egypt—to discuss
the possibility of turning one of his
musicals, For the Love of Adam, into an
animated feature.

Since the completion of his services at the UN, Carp is
continuing to work on these other passions. ◆