

## World Leaders Gather for an Historic Portrait

Who would you ask to photograph a group portrait of the nearly 200 heads of state who attended the 2000 United Nations Millennium World Peace Summit in New York?

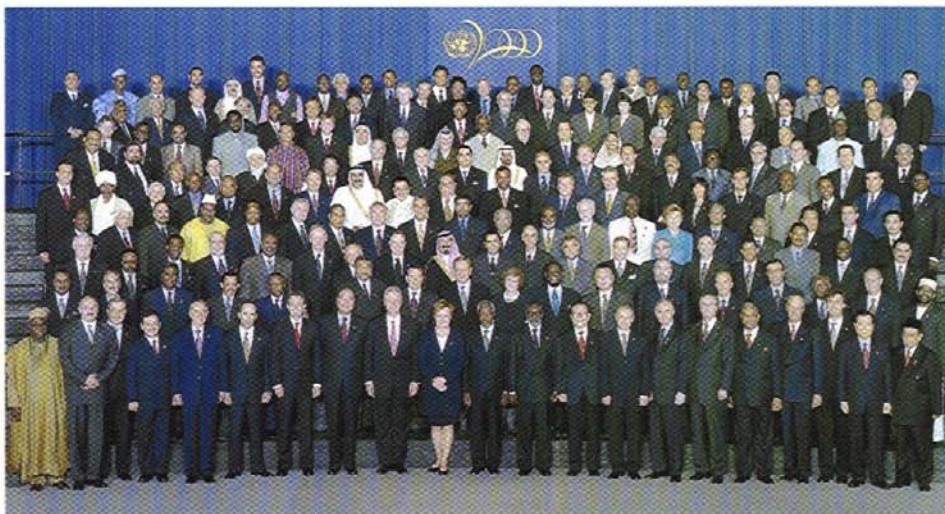
Terry Deglau, M.PhotoG., was the obvious choice for this historical and politically sensitive job. Five years ago, Deglau, trade relations manager of Kodak Professional, was the official portrait photographer at the U.N.'s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

United Nations Photo Chief Milton Grant approached Deglau last spring to begin planning the portrait, which was to take place on the first day of the Peace Summit, September 6. Deglau recruited three professional photographers for the project: Tony Corbell, Cr.PhotoG., Director of Education for Hasselblad, U.S.A.; Rick Billings, PPA Certified, M.Photo.Cr., of Omaha; and Robert Golding, PPA Certified, M.PhotoG.Cr., F-ASP, of Philadelphia. He asked John Shirilla, former sales manager of Photogenic Professional Lighting, to orchestrate the flash equipment, while Tim Mathiesen, M.PhotoG.Cr., F-ASP, of Westminster, California, documented the event.

Grant and Deglau chose the Trusteeship Room at U.N. headquarters to be the site of the portrait. For political reasons, it was out of the question to arrange the delegates by height, and every delegate's face needed to be clearly visible. Acutely aware of protocol, Deglau had the risers built with one foot between each level to accommodate the differences in height among the distinguished delegates. The back row was the widest, and the rows narrowed tier by tier toward the front to prevent the keystone effect that commonly occurs in large group shots in the inverse configuration.

The team's next challenge was to find a way to get each world leader into the correct position with both efficiency and diplomacy. They hit upon placing numbered stickers with names of the countries on the risers to indicate where each delegate should stand, then cleverly placed footprint decals at each place to show them exactly how to pose.

The group was so large that the leaders' usual entourages were not allowed into the room. Sans benefit of interpreters, the photographers and U.N. officials had to



Terry Deglau, Trade Relations Manager of Kodak Professional, organized this historical portrait of the 2000 United Nations Millennium World Peace Summit in September. U.N. Photo by Terry J Deglau/Kodak

work quickly to position everyone so they could accomplish the task within the 30-minutes allotted for the session.

The three photographers lined up in front of the group: Golding with a Sinar 4x5-inch view camera and Kodak Portra 400NC film, Corbell with a Hasselblad with Portra 400VC, and Billings with a Kodak DCS 560 digital camera. Ten Photogenic flash units supplied illumination. They exposed a total of 15 images, finishing the historical assignment in 23 minutes. The digital capture was uploaded to the wire services within minutes.

"Everyone was in a pretty good mood throughout the portrait session," said Deglau, "but it was the large sign spelling out the word 'smile' in six different languages that triggered the expressions we wanted."

At the end of the three-day summit, each head of state took home a 16x20-inch print matted and framed by Art Leather and signed by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Deglau, who has had the honor of photographing five U.S. presidents, expressed his awe at being in the presence of so many world leaders, "If you take the power and leadership of one U.S. president, and multiply it by 189 people, you'll have an idea of how it felt." In a fitting close to this memorable experience, President Clinton

walked over to Deglau and personally thanked him for doing such a great job with the project. ■