



SECURITY PROSPECTS IN THE HIGH NORTH

A seminar organized jointly by NATO and the Government of Iceland,
in cooperation with the NATO Defense College
Hilton Reykjavik Nordica Hotel, Reykjavik, Iceland 28-29 January 2009

PROGRAMME

Important changes are under way in the High North which will have a broad impact on international affairs. The shrinking of the Arctic ice cap and technological advances are making the region's energy resources more accessible. At the same time, new trans-arctic shipping routes are opening and are expected to alter global transportation patterns. The economic interests are reflected in a growing global awareness in the region, competing claims by relevant stakeholders, and resumed military presence in the area. As it is a region of enduring strategic importance for NATO and allied security, developments in the High North require careful and ongoing examination.

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY

PLENARY SESSION

0900 – 0910 **Opening address:**

Prime Minister of Iceland

0910 – 0930 **Keynote speech:**

H.E. Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Secretary General of NATO

SEMINAR

0930 – 0945 **Introductory remarks:**

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iceland

Lieutenant General Wolf-Dieter Loeser, Commandant, NATO Defense College

0945 – 1145 **SESSION 1: Current Strategic Challenges in the High North**

The North-Atlantic has historically been a region of strategic importance. Following the end of the Cold War, military presence in the High North was significantly reduced. In the last few years, interest in the region has grown significantly. How do we view the current strategic situation in the High North? What are today's security challenges, are we sufficiently aware of them and properly equipped to meet them?

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway

General John Craddock, Supreme Allied Commander Europe

Dr. Robert Huebert, Professor of Political Science, University of Calgary

Panel discussion with questions and comments from the audience, moderated by Ms. Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Member of Althingi.

Joining speakers for panel discussion:

H.E. Ambassador Stewart Eldon, UK Permanent Representative to NATO

H.E. Mrs. Colleen Swords, Assistant Deputy Minister, International Security, Canada

1200 – 1330 **Buffet Luncheon**, Conference Hall, Hilton Reykjavik Nordica Hotel

1330 – 1500 **SESSION 2: A Look into the Future - Where Are We Headed?**

Given the economic potential and political interest in the High North, what strategic scenarios can be envisaged? How do the “best case” and the “worst case” scenarios look in terms of security implications? Should new security challenges, organized crime, terrorism or environmental disasters, be our priority, or are traditional military threats likely to emerge?

Speakers:

Rt Hon. Baroness Ann Taylor, Minister for International Defence and Security, UK

General James N. Mattis, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

Dr. Henning Riecke, Head of European Foreign and Security Policy Program, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Panel discussion with questions and comments from the audience, moderated by Mr. Brian Hanrahan, BBC foreign news correspondent

Joining speakers for panel discussion:

H.E. Deputy Minister Espen Barth Eide, Norway

1500 – 1630 **SESSION 3: Options for Closer Cooperation in the High North**

The opportunities and challenges in the High North require close international cooperation if to be met in a peaceful, sustainable and mutually beneficial manner. Is the current level of international cooperation in the High North sufficient? Is the existing institutional framework adequate? Should individual states enhance their cooperation? Does NATO have a particular a role to play?

Speakers:

H.E. Søren Gade, Minister of Defence, Denmark

Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, Chairman of NATO’s Military Committee

Dr. Alyson Bailes, visiting Professor, University of Iceland

Panel discussion with questions and comments from the audience, moderated by Mr. Martin Howard, Assistant Secretary General, Operations Division, NATO

Joining speakers for panel discussion:

Ambassador Kurt Volker, U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO

1630 – 1700 **Chairman’s conclusions**

H.E. Mrs. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

END OF SEMINAR