

NATO has adapted: An alliance with a new mission

**Op-Ed by R. Nicholas Burns, U.S. Ambassador To NATO
published in the International Herald Tribune
on 24 May 2003**

BRUSSELS -- NATO's decision Wednesday to provide extensive military support to the Polish division in Iraq represents a giant step forward for the 54-year-old alliance. Together with its decision April 16 to take the lead in the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, this action places the North Atlantic Treaty Organization squarely on the front lines in the global war on terror. As U.S. ambassador to NATO, I know that the United States enthusiastically endorses NATO's new emphasis on confronting the most virulent security threat of our time - terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Presumed dead more often than the hero in a melodrama, the new NATO keeps on defying the pundits' predictions by adapting itself to a rapidly changing world. This doesn't mean that the alliance has not had serious difficulties. NATO had a near-death experience in February, when differences over Iraq caused an unpardonable delay in responding to Turkey's request for assistance to deter a potential attack by Saddam Hussein's forces. Nevertheless, NATO did finally act, living up to its fundamental commitment to defend its members against external threats.

For NATO to heal the rift opened by the crisis in February and revitalize the trans-Atlantic relationship, however, it must transform itself fundamentally, as it was called upon to do by alliance leaders at the Prague summit meeting in November. To complete its pivot from its Cold War focus on Europe to confront the real threats to our security in Southwest Asia, the Middle East and beyond, it is crucial that NATO succeed in Afghanistan, in Iraq and in building military capabilities.

NATO has committed itself to going wherever it is needed to defend its members against the threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The down payment on that promise is NATO's historic decision last month to take over the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul in August. NATO's new leading role in Afghanistan - the alliance's first military operation outside Europe - will give it a key mission on the front lines of the global war on terror.

Defying its skeptics, NATO has now also agreed to provide military support for the Polish division in the Iraq stabilization force. With this first step and the possibility of a greater role in Iraq in the future, NATO will position itself as a major force in Middle East peacekeeping.

A NATO in which the United States has more than 200 strategic lift aircraft, Britain has four and the rest of the allies have none is unsustainable. America's European allies must now begin to meet their commitments to address rapidly the alarming imbalances in airlift, precision-guided munitions, air-to-air refueling, and secure communications. Without these capabilities, most European nations will not, in the future, be able to

meaningfully contribute to modern military operations, making hollow any plans for a serious European-American security partnership.

Of course, there are unilateralists who don't want NATO to succeed. Some Americans argue that the United States has no need for allies and can afford to go it alone in the world. Their position is a recipe for failure and has been firmly rejected by my government.

Some Europeans, on the other hand, think they can create a unified continental foreign policy with opposition to the United States as its *raison d'être*. They call for European-only military headquarters that would needlessly duplicate what NATO already offers and have zero real utility, unless the objective is to weaken our ability to work together. Their vision of Europe as a countervailing power to the United States is one that would destroy the cooperative spirit that has held us together in NATO.

These U.S. and Continental unilateralists present us with a false choice, one that would weaken NATO's preeminent role in tying North America to Europe. Fortunately we don't have to play by their zero-sum rules.

As Secretary of State Colin Powell told the Senate recently: "This great alliance, which has kept the peace for more than 50 years, is more than a treaty for collective defense, it is the central organizing force in a great web of relationships that holds North America and Europe together."

It is time to bury our animosities and heal trans-Atlantic ties with a generosity of spirit true to our long, historic friendship in NATO. By working together in the alliance, we can revive the kind of cooperation on issues of international peace and security that helped us win the Cold War, and will be essential to winning the global war on terror. The new NATO remains our greatest bridge to our common European and American vision for a strong and prosperous future.

NATO Gets Serious

Publication: Wall Street Journal

Date: 08/11/2003

Author: Nicholas Burns

Is U.S. Ambassador To Nato

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization rewrites history today when it assumes the lead for the U.N.-sponsored force providing security for Kabul. It is the first out-of-Europe operation in NATO's 54-year existence. In parallel fashion, the U.S. is working closely on the ground with international partners to help construct Afghan institutions. A notable example is our cooperation with France and other countries in building the new Afghan National Army.

By taking over the International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF, NATO shows it is serious about a transformation that has been in the works for almost two years. The ISAF operation is an expression of our new emphasis on confronting global terrorism and the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction.

Taking the ISAF lead in Kabul unquestionably moves the alliance beyond the traditional transatlantic sphere and out to where it is needed most. NATO's security presence will help accelerate Afghanistan's transition from tyranny to democracy.

Notwithstanding the Central Asia address on the operation's new field headquarters, NATO will run ISAF as it has run successful peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia. The allies will exercise political control in the North Atlantic Council, while NATO's military headquarters, under the leadership of Supreme Allied Commander Europe General James Jones, will provide military expertise for planning and operations.

Ironically, for such an unprecedented operation, continuity is a major advantage of NATO's takeover of ISAF. Having NATO in command overcomes the problem of searching every six months for a new nation to lead the mission, whose purpose is to bring security and stability to the Kabul region. Four NATO Allies -- Germany and the Netherlands, Turkey, and the United Kingdom -- had each previously taken a turn at leadership of ISAF. Some 95% of the mission's troops are already coming from NATO members or countries involved in NATO's partnership for peace.

This continuity will pay real dividends for the security of the Afghan people and will enable smaller nations to play a strong role within multinational headquarters. NATO troops will partner with countries from as far afield as New Zealand. Moreover, the new ISAF command will continue to work alongside the U.S. Central Command-led coalition forces of Operation Enduring Freedom. The coalition has been in Afghanistan since October 2001, and continues to safeguard that country from remaining Taliban and al

Qaeda forces.

NATO's April 16 decision to take over the ISAF lead reflects a consensus that the community of transatlantic democracies is committed to a better future for Afghanistan. We're invested for the long-term in security and reconstruction and improvement in the lives of Afghans. NATO's security role will facilitate the reconstruction efforts of the Afghan people, supported by the United States and other countries, the U.N., the EU, other international organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

Some progress is already visible as Afghanistan slowly builds social, economic and political institutions. Two million Afghan refugees have returned home. More than four million children now attend schools, the highest enrollment rate in Afghanistan's history. Mass immunizations have been given to prevent disease epidemics. Food programs have prevented starvation for almost 10 million Afghans. Police training has started. Work is underway on essential public infrastructure such as schools, power, water, and health facilities. This progress would have been impossible without the strong leadership of the United States, contributions from our coalition partners, and support from NATO allies in the previous ISAF missions.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and local authorities strongly endorse NATO's takeover of the ISAF lead. In NATO's new mission, they see a broadening of support from the international community for security and reconstruction in Afghanistan. They regard the alliance as a credible, multinational military force capable of maintaining the kind of security environment that will help current reconstruction efforts to take root and even to accelerate.

President Karzai, U.N. Representative Lakhdar Brahimi, and others have expressed their hope that NATO will eventually extend ISAF beyond Kabul. This idea will need to be considered seriously once NATO has settled into its role in Kabul. One option for NATO's expansion through ISAF would be to support and complement the development efforts of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams, sponsored by the U.S., the U.K., and soon, New Zealand, that have begun to facilitate security in areas outside Kabul.

NATO's leadership of ISAF demonstrates that the revitalization of the NATO alliance that began after September 11, 2001, is becoming reality in Afghanistan. By assuming the ISAF lead, the alliance begins to make good on the agenda of transformation agreed to by NATO's heads of government at the Summit in Prague last November. Crossing into South Asia represents further evolution for NATO toward the modern, transformed Alliance needed in our dangerous international security environment.



Mr. Michiel Patijn
Netherlands' Ambassador to NATO

-curriculum vitae-

Michiel Patijn (1942) was born and raised in The Hague. He studied Law at the University of Utrecht, receiving a masters degree in civil and fiscal law in 1966.

After a brief stint in the private sector he joined in 1968 the Netherlands' Foreign Ministry working on policy development for- and financial planning of development co-operation programmes.

In 1974 -1978 he worked for the Netherlands' Embassy in Washington DC dealing with international trade and energy policy.

In 1978 he joined the International Affairs Department of the Economics Ministry in The Hague.

In various positions at the (deputy) director level he worked on international trade issues, on bilateral affairs and on European Union Affairs.

In 1989 he was appointed Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence. As ranking civil servant he was in charge of the Ministry's Central Office. He took part in the review of Netherlands' defence policy and the restructuring of the armed forces following the fall of the Berlin wall and the demise of the Sowjet Union.

In 1994 Mr. Patijn joined the Netherlands' government as State Secretary of Foreign Affairs in charge of European Affairs. In this position his main responsibility was co-ordination of EU affairs. He represented the Netherlands in the negotiations leading to the Amsterdam treaty, chairing the negotiating group under the Dutch EU presidency in 1997.

From 1998 to 2001 he was a Member of Parliament for the Liberal Party (VVD). He chaired the Parliamentary Committee for European Affairs.

Michiel Patijn is married to Anna Vriesendorp (1944), a practicing psychiatrist specialised in forensic psychiatry and the treatment of psychiatric patients with alcohol and drug addictions.

They have two children.



CURRICULUM VITAE - Ambassador BOGDAN MAZURU, Head of the Mission of Romania to NATO



Born: on March 26, 1962 - Bucharest, Romania

Since June 2001: Ambassador, Mission of Romania to NATO and WEU

December 2000-June 2001: Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Romania, Washington D.C.

September-December 2000: Deputy Head of Mission, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Romania, Washington D.C.

February - September 2000: Director General for Bilateral and Regional Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

July 1999 - February 2000: Director General for Europe and North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

1998 - 1999: Deputy Head of Mission, Mission of Romania to NATO and WEU, Brussels

1996 - 1998: First Secretary (Political), Embassy of Romania, Washington D.C.

1995 - 1996: Deputy Director, European Union Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1991 - 1995: Third Secretary - Second Secretary, Policy Planning Staff, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

1992: participation in a 6 month Training Program for Central and East European Diplomats organized by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berlin and Bonn

1990 - 1991: Computer Engineer, Romanian Writers Union, Bucharest

1989-1990: Computer Engineer, Institute for Research in Transportation, Bucharest

1987 - 1989: Computer Engineer, Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, Bucharest

1986: Graduates the Automatic Control and Computer Science Department of the Polytechnic University Bucharest

Married: to Emilia Mazuru, no children

Foreign Languages: English, French, German

Biography

Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns

Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council

Ambassador R. Nicholas Burns is the United States Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Appointed by President Bush, he was sworn into office by Secretary of State Colin Powell on August 8, 2001. As Ambassador to NATO, he heads the combined State-Defense Department U.S. Mission to NATO. The Mission promotes U.S. interests on the range of Alliance issues, including counter-terrorism, the Balkans, missile defense, relations with Russia and Partners, NATO enlargement and military capabilities, and NATO's relations with the European Union.



**Ambassador R.
Nicholas Burns**

Prior to his current assignment, Ambassador Burns was U.S. Ambassador to Greece from November 1997 until August 2001. As Ambassador, he oversaw all U.S. government programs at the U.S. Embassy in Athens, the Consulate General in Thessaloniki, and at other locations in Greece.

From 1995 to 1997, Ambassador Burns was Spokesman of the Department of State and Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs for Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary Madeleine Albright. In this position, he gave daily press conferences on U.S. foreign policy issues, accompanied both Secretaries of State on all their foreign trips and coordinated all of the Department's public outreach programs.

Mr. Burns, a career Senior Foreign Service Officer, served for five years (1990-1995) on the National Security Council staff at the White House. He was Special Assistant to President Clinton and Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia Affairs. He had lead responsibility in the White House for advising the President, the Vice President and the National Security Advisor on all aspects of U.S. relations with the fifteen countries of the former Soviet Union.

Under President Bush, he was Director for Soviet (and then Russian) Affairs. During this time, he attended all U.S. - Soviet summits and numerous other international meetings and specialized on economic assistance issues, U.S. ties with Russia and Ukraine, and relations with the Baltic countries. He was a member of the Department's Transition Team in 1998, and served as Staff Officer in the Department's Operations Center and Secretariat in 1987-1988.

Mr. Burns began his Foreign Service career in Africa and the Middle East. He was an intern at the U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott, Mauritania, Vice Consul and Staff

Assistant to the Ambassador in Cairo, Egypt between 1983-1985, and then Political Officer at the American Consulate General in Jerusalem from 1985 to 1987. In this position, he coordinated U.S. economic assistance to the Palestinian population in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Mr. Burns has been awarded the State Department's Superior Honor Award for outstanding performance three times, the Department's James Clement Dunn Award for Excellence in 1994, and in 2000 the Charles E. Cobb Award for Trade Development by an Ambassador. He was also awarded the Order of the Terra Mariana by Estonian President Meri for his work in securing withdrawal of Russian military forces from that country.

Mr. Burns was born on January 28, 1956. Raised in Massachusetts, he earned the Certificat Pratique de Langue Francaise from the University of Paris (Sorbonne) in 1977. He subsequently earned a B.S. in European History from Boston College in 1978, graduated Summa Cum Laude and was elected Phi Beta Kappa. He then received an M.A. with distinction from John Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in 1980 in International Economics and American Foreign Policy. He has received honorary doctorates from seven American universities. He was named Communicator of the Year by the National Association of Government Communicators in 1997.

Before entering the Foreign Service, Mr. Burns worked as Program Officer at A.T. International, a non-profit organization specializing in economic assistance for Third World Countries.

Mr. Burns is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Order of St. John. He speaks French, Arabic, and Greek. He and his wife Elizabeth Baylies have three daughters.

George L. Bustin

Office: Brussels Office

Position: Partner (Since 1982)

Education:

Harvard Law School (J.D., 1973)

Bar Admissions:

New York - 1974

George L. Bustin is a partner based in the Brussels office.

Mr. Bustin's practice focuses on corporate and financial transactions, including share and asset acquisitions, joint ventures and investment matters in connection with Russia and Eastern Europe. Mr. Bustin has extensive experience in the representation of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation and has participated in the restructuring of Russia's sovereign external debt. Mr. Bustin has also been responsible for various assignments for the firm's client OAO Tatneft, a Russian oil and energy company, including the restructuring of that company's hard currency debt. Mr. Bustin is widely published on the various aspects of European Union law, as well as trade and investment matters in the emerging market economies of Russia and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Bustin joined the firm in 1973 and became a partner in 1982. From 1973 to 1975, 1979 to 1984 and in 1991, he was resident in the New York office. Mr. Bustin served as assistant to the director of the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. from 1973 to 1974. He was a visiting professor at Princeton University during 1991. Mr. Bustin received a J.D. degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard University in 1973 and an A.B., summa cum laude, from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University in 1970.

Mr. Bustin is a member of the Bar in New York and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the Supreme Court for the State of New York. Mr. Bustin is Chair of the Brussels chapter of the international division of the New York State Bar Association and is a member of the Center for European Policy Studies in Brussels. His native language is English, and he is fluent in French.