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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Brandon Deuille



On May 27th, 2008, the Atlantic Council of Canada held its Annual General Meeting. Those in attendance listened to an encouraging annual report from ACC President **Mrs. Julie Lindhout** and an informative keynote presentation by ACC Chairman, **the Honorable Bill Graham**, about the lessons from Afghanistan.

Mrs. Lindhout's year in review illustrated that the ACC has had a very hard working, productive year of 2007 with a good number of activities and events as well as a good handle on ACC finances. Outlined in the President's Report was the success of the Winter Seminar themed "**Canada-NATO and Global Terrorism**", two roundtables "**NATO and Canada in the 21st Century**" and "**The Role of the Canadian Rangers in Canada's most northern regions**", the 1st Annual ACC Tribute Dinner, and the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament. The highlight of 2007 was the organization and hosting of the 53rd Annual General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association.



Mrs. Lindhout also praised a truly great Canadian, Mr. Graham, for his dedication to the ACC and Canada's role in NATO. After Mrs. Lindhout's report everyone was treated to a presentation by Mr. Graham, a remarkable first-hand account by Canada's former Foreign and Defence Minister. Mr. Graham talked about the lessons learned from Afghanistan and the need to stay the course in that war-torn country. He talked about the 3D "whole-of-government" approach, which Canada is undertaking so the people of Afghanistan can make a better life for themselves and their children. He also presented some of the challenges NATO faces in Afghanistan as the Alliance continues its first out-of-area operation in its almost 60 year history. Although there are obstacles for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, Mr. Graham emphasized that NATO is good for Canada and with the country's high profile contributions in the south Canada is an important member country for NATO.

The attendees had a great opportunity to ask Mr. Graham many insightful questions on Canada's mission in Afghanistan and other international security matters that opened an interesting discussion. The formal part of the event was followed by a relaxing wine-and-cheese reception that offered a great networking opportunity.

REPORT FROM THE YOUNG ATLANTICIST SUMMIT

Bucharest, Romania, April 1-5, 2008

By Luisa Sargsyan

Young Atlanticist
Summit bucharest 2008



In early April, for the first time in nearly twenty years, international news wires were dominated by reports from Bucharest. The capital of Romania, a former member of the “Eastern Block” and one of the most recent nations to join NATO and the EU, opened its doors to the 20th Summit of the North Atlantic Alliance. However, the Heads of State from the NATO member countries and all Partnership for Peace countries, including Russia, their respective entourages, and the media were not the only official guests.

Following the tradition established in 2002 and 2004, the 2008 Young Atlanticist Summit (YAS), which brought together over 120 students and young international affairs professionals representing 37 countries was held in conjunction with the NATO Summit. Canada was represented by **Alex Dobrota** (McGill University), **Amal Moussaoui** (Benfield Group), **Tamila Karpyk** (Dalhousie University), and myself. The event was organized by the Atlantic Council of the United States (ACUS) and the Euro-Atlantic Council of Romania in partnership with the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA), the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) and a number of government and corporate sponsors. YAS was hosted by the Academy of the Romanian Intelligence Service, and we are tremendously grateful to the Romanian authorities for the help they provided with its organization and logistical support.

Numerous meetings with world leaders and other key political figures from North America to Europe and the Middle East were among the primary highlights of YAS. To underscore the educational aspect of its very special role as a meeting of future leaders, YAS also featured a **crisis simulation** that involved a Romanian oil tanker hijacked by terrorists in the Mediterranean in 2012. Young Atlanticists had to act as representatives of their respective governments to find a solution to the crisis: they worked together to come up with a meeting agenda, issue statements regarding the imaginary crisis situation, devoted many hours to wordsmithing and at last arrived to a mutually acceptable final communiqué. The participants had an opportunity to share - through both formal and informal discussions - their understanding and vision of current international security issues and the future challenges that NATO and its allies and partners may have to face in the years to come. A videoconference with professors and students of Kabul University was another special feature of the program.



The NATO Bucharest summit was the biggest in the Alliance’s 59-year history. Another historical point was that NATO extended invitations to Albania and Croatia and reaffirmed readiness to invite Georgia and Ukraine to begin the Membership Action Plan (MAP) by the end of 2008. This has profound implications for the security climate in all of Europe. This change is of interest on the other side of the Atlantic too as the United States is getting closer to the November 2008 presidential election, which may be followed by perceptible changes in the U.S. foreign policy. This in turn may influence the

future dynamics of the Alliance.

I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to observe first-hand these important geopolitical events. YAS participants had a great chance to hear the ideas of fellow Atlanticists and those of the leading European and North American security experts and policy and decision makers as to how to make the world better and more secure.

On April 1, the day of our arrival in Bucharest, Young Atlanticists were welcomed at the headquarters of the Romanian Intelligence Service where Prime Minister of Romania **Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu** delivered a keynote address. **George Cristian Maior**, the director of the Romanian Intelligence Service,

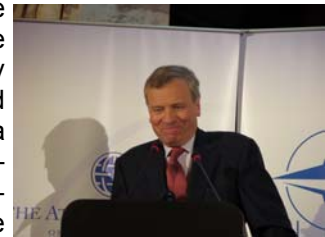
along with the members of the organizing group - **Mr. Frederic Kempe** of the Atlantic Council of the United States, **Mr. Alexandru Serban** of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Romania, ATA President **Amb. Robert Hunter** and others - conveyed to the YAS participants their warm welcome to the 2008 NATO summit.



April 2 kicked off with an early-morning speech by U.S. President **George W. Bush** at the Palatul Casei de Economii și Consemnațiuni (National Bank of Savings). The event was part of the April 1-3 **Bucharest Conference** organized by the **German Marshall Fund of the United States**. Several Young Atlanticists had a chance to meet President George Bush face-to-face, introduce themselves and exchange greetings.

At the Military Circle Building, a group of prominent experts on energy security briefed YAS participants on the reliability and security of Europe's energy supplies and NATO's role in this issue. The panel, moderated by Prof. **Liviu Mureșan**, EURISC Foundation President, featured **Matthew Bryza**, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and **Thierry Legendre**, Policy Advisor in the office of the NATO Secretary General.

The Summit would not have been a real success without an address by the NATO Secretary General **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**. The participants had the privilege to hear first-hand from the Secretary General about NATO's key role in tackling current complex security challenges facing its members and allies. As the Secretary General said, in order to act effectively there is a need to act now and develop a common transatlantic approach to these issues, for which he stated "**There is no better venue than NATO**". Secretary General congratulated a group of **Afghan students**, recipients of the **Manfred Wörner Fellowship**, expressing the hope that one day they would become the ones who will lead their nation into a brighter future.



The second half of the day featured speeches by Supreme Allied Commander (Europe) **Gen. John Craddock**, Dutch Prime Minister **Jan Peter Balkenende**, and President of Georgia **Mikhail Saakashvili**.



The address of the Georgian President **Mikhail Saakashvili** was undoubtedly one of the most anticipated speeches at the Summit since he arrived in Bucharest hoping to receive an invitation for Georgia to join the MAP, thus the Bucharest summit was of paramount significance for his country. Mr. Saakashvili was very articulate when speaking about his country's thorny path that suffered tremendous transformational processes and economic troubles as a result of both the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the *2003 Rose Revolution*. He reiterated the great importance of the Bucharest Summit to his country's future, calling NATO "**the most effective alliance in handling difficult situations where others have failed**" and voicing his belief that for Georgia it is a value-based case to eventually become a NATO member, "**a member of a community of nations that pledge to protect each other**".

At the end of the day, YAS participants were invited to a restaurant where they were served a traditional Romanian dinner while enjoying Romanian music, where they continued their discussions on international security issues in a far less formal setting.

The morning session on **April 3** began with another highly anticipated address by Albanian Prime Minister **Sali Berisha**. He eloquently spoke about Albania's path of comprehensive reforms with the final goal of full integration into all European institutions, namely the European Union, Council of Europe, and NATO, which the Prime Minister called the "**most successful political-military Alliance of all times**". He expressed a sincere hope that the



achievements of his country will contribute to the process of Albania's accession to NATO. In his words, "**NATO membership is deeply rooted in the history of my country**" meaning the "**reestablishment of the country's historical, cultural, economic and other ties that bind us with Western nations and civilizations**".



A special session was held with U.S. First Lady **Laura Bush** and President of Afghanistan **Hamid Karzai**. Mrs. Bush's talk focused primarily on the importance of Afghanistan's recent improvements in the field of education. She also reiterated the willingness, commitment and dedication of the United States and its NATO allies to help the Afghan people achieve the goal of a stable and democratic future. She also urged Young Atlanticists to expand their knowledge about the challenges faced by their peers in Afghanistan and help support Afghanistan's young democracy.



Afghanistan's President **Hamid Karzai** spoke about the *long journey* the Afghan people have gone through before 2001 for nearly 30 years, a period of war, destruction and desperation. He emphasized the aspirations of the Afghan people to live in freedom and enjoy human rights. In Mr. Karzai's words, the *long journey* is far from over. He repeatedly said that Afghanistan needs continued support from the international community in fighting terrorism, securing the country, strengthening its institutions, ensuring economic growth and development, and in helping the Afghan people build a truly democratic society. This would eventually pave the way to a better future for the younger generations of Afghans who then would become full partners of the Young Atlanticists, the future leaders.



After this session, the Young Atlanticists engaged in the NATO crisis response simulation.



The session with **David Miliband**, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was a rather informal, interactive discussion of global security issues. He particularly stressed the importance of transatlantic cooperation and said that NATO should work with other international organizations to seek help in its efforts in the countries where the Alliance is currently engaged.



Young Atlanticists wrapped up the day with socializing over Romanian barbeque, drinks, dancing, and more conversations on international affairs.



On April 4, the program started with presenting a new book entitled "**The battle for NATO**" by former Romanian Minister of Defense **Ioan Mircea Pașcu** who played an important role not only in the country's post-communist history but, according to ATA President Robert Hunter, also in the expansion of the Alliance. After this presentation Young Atlanticists moved to a special panel with **Afghan students**, recipients of **Manfred Wörner fellowship**, who shared their experiences and extended their reflections on some of the critical issues facing Afghanistan, such as opium poppy cultivation and the link between drug trafficking and terrorism financing. The idea of creating an Afghan chapter of the YATA was discussed and appeared to be a very realistic goal.



Then, the group moved on to continue the simulation. Delegations worked in groups on drafting the final communiqué of the summit and clearing outstanding issues in the bilateral relations of some countries.

After intense discussions among national delegations, the Young Atlanticists were invited to visit the Romanian Palace of the Parliament, the largest and most expensive administrative building in the world, where meetings with other prominent political and military leaders were held. NATO's Director of Policy Planning in the Private Office of the Secre-

tary General **Jamie Shea** gave an extraordinarily insightful speech where he talked about NATO's official position on all issues raised at the Summit. He emphasized the significance of the Bucharest summit, which, in his words, "**has provided us with the right ingredients that we now can put together in a recipe for defining a coherent strategic concept for the Alliance at the next summit in Strasbourg**". Romanian President **Traian Băsescu** also addressed the group and provided another enlightening insight into the summit and its conclusions.

On **April 5**, Young Atlanticists visited the Peleş castle in the beautiful mountainous resort of Sinaia, where for a few hours they had a chance to get in touch with the Romanian history of the 19th century.

In summary, the 2008 Young Atlanticist Summit has provided a unique, invaluable forum to young, striving future leaders where they exchanged views and ideas, interacted with well-established professionals, diplomats and world leaders and attempted to build a stronger and better understanding of the common cause: maintaining peace and stability globally and providing security to the most volatile regions of the world, which is greatly helped by the strengthening of the transatlantic dialogue.

The speakers were deluged by a torrent of questions from Young Atlanticists on a number of issues of critical importance to the Alliance. The discussions throughout the Summit were amazing in their depth, as the participants challenged world leaders with lots of incisive, intelligent questions; this was not superficial chat, these were real meetings between representatives of the current and future generations of world leaders.

The NATO crisis-handling simulation was a smashing success: national delegations engaged in discussions with one another on the trickiest of issues and in the end were able to reach mutual agreements on most of them. No doubt, as the young participants continue to develop their careers in the field, this was a invaluable experience in leadership and the art of diplomacy in finding a solution to highly explosive, complicated situations. YAS has also helped establish a Young Atlanticist network, and everyone agreed that it promised to become a lasting legacy of the 2008 NATO Summit in Bucharest. The Young Atlanticist Summit launched a website, which can be accessed at <http://www.youngatlanticist.org>.



ACC Annual Spring Conference Conference Report

By Luisa Sargsyan

The Atlantic Council's day-long Annual Spring Conference held on April 30, 2008 and entitled "**NATO's New Frontiers: Issues and Challenges for Canadians**" brought together a group of participants made up of prominent Canadian politicians, Canadian and international research fellows, professors, representatives of foreign embassies and international organizations and a group of high school students.



Following the tradition, a pre-conference reception was given the day before at the Royal Canadian Military Institute aimed at introducing the conference speakers to the Atlantic Council, to each other and to ACC staff members.

ACC Chairman, the **Honorable Bill Graham**, opened the conference. In his introductory remarks emphasizing the importance of Canada's mission in Afghanistan and that of Afghanistan for NATO - the "**focal point**" of the ACC - Mr. Graham spoke about the significant contributions and the outcomes of the Manley report released earlier this year and its impact on the Canadian political and public discourse. Briefly touching upon issues such as the upcoming presidential election in the United States, the ongoing standoff in the relations between the U.S and Iran

over the Iranian nuclear program, Mr. Graham voiced his concern in regard to a possible preemptive attack against Iran at a time when Canadian troops are in Afghanistan. He concluded his remarks by introducing the speakers while attaching great importance to the topics that were to be discussed at the conference. Mr. Graham expressed hope that events like this will promote dialog on many issues of vital importance not only for Canada and NATO, but also to international peace and stability.

With heated discussions going on in the international media and in academic and government circles on **Russia's resurgence**, the conference's first panel focused on Russia's foreign policies in the West and East and was moderated by **Professor Walter Perchal** of the Department of Social Science, York University.

Sergey Plekhanov's opening address was based on his expert knowledge of Russia. Currently an Associate Professor at the York University's Department of Political Science, Prof. Prekhanov spoke about Russia's Western vision. He highlighted some of the challenges the country had to face after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and referred to the country's post-Soviet experiences as recovery from a *terminal crisis* it was plunged into as a result of serious political and economic upheavals. However, as the Professor argued, the country has been quite successful in restoring its economic health, achieving political stability, effectively developing its post-Soviet foreign policy and eventually improving its political image due to the fact that "**Russia's resurgence and recovery and what goes with it seem to evoke rather positive reactions in the world public opinion.**" In his words, Russia is bringing its relations including its economic interests with the West to a new level, which is something that the Western countries haven't dealt with before. The question is whether and to what extent Russia's recovery has made Russia an important player in international affairs. According to Mr. Plekhanov, as Russia recovers, its relations with the West have worsened to the extent that some observers call it a new Cold War and that there is a need to contain Russia. But the Professor was optimistic and argued that no matter what the differences and mutual concerns are "**the world cannot simply afford another zero-sum game**" and that "**everything is negotiable**". Professor Prekhanov's presentation was filled with many statistical data drawn from studies conducted by reputable international opinion research centers. According to the studies, Russians support deepening their relations and cooperation with the West including the United States, although Europe remains a preferred partner for Russia. In fact, development of cooperative relations with the West remains a top priority for Russian policy makers as the signals coming from the new Russian leadership demonstrate this policy direction. The West including NATO also seem to be interested in participating in Russian political debates in a cooperative way.



Professor Larry Black of the Georgian College at the Laurentian University, an expert on Canada-Russia relations, focused his talk on **Russia's Eastern vision** and the country's relations with Asia. Much emphasis was placed on Russia as a member of a number of regional organizations, especially the Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Russia's large Muslim population and linguistic diversity helped make Russia an important player in the International Islamic Organization as well. Russia also enjoys diverse economic links with the Central Asian countries and maintains multifaceted relations with another major Asian player, China. Professor Black emphasized Russia's leading role in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) that is dominated by Russia due to its status of the largest military power in the region. This, in its turn, gives Russia's partners in the CSTO access to its military academies. Professor Black made a comparison between the CSTO and NATO saying that the first resembles the latter in its procedures: it operates by consensus, it has Article 4 that is very much like NATO's Article 5. But it's been NATO's policy to ignore the collective nature of relations between these countries and to deal with them rather on a bilateral basis. Therefore, Professor Black urged NATO to recognize organizations such as CSTO as legiti-

mate regional organizations due to the fact that most of the Central Asian countries share the same values in Afghanistan as the West. According to him, the West should not be worried about the nature of the relationships between these countries because of their common interests in the region. He also thinks that while Russia's or China's leadership should not bother the West, ***"it is going to bother us because of who we are"*** and ***"the failure to deal with them as collective organizations is something that will guarantee future instability in the region rather than guarantee stability. Canada as an important player in Afghanistan is in a position that could build mechanisms of cooperation between these organizations; this is something we can do and we should do."***

Rolf Welberts, Head of the Russia/Ukraine Section at NATO HQ, made a brief summary of NATO-Russia cooperation within the framework of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC). He mentioned the 2004 NATO-Russia Council Action Plan on Terrorism, but expressed dissatisfaction with the level of Russia's cooperation in the Operation Active Endeavor. Some other spheres of cooperation include joint military operations and exercises, defense reform, Russia's ratification of the PfP Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) 2007, nuclear weapons and arms control issues, and increasing public awareness. While the dialog between Russia and NATO intensified on these and many other issues including NATO enlargement, Kosovo, and many others since the creation of the NRC, Mr. Welberts said that Russia's efforts to make the information on this cooperation as much available to the Russian public as possible remains an area for improvement. Mr. Welberts talked about Vladimir Putin's visit to Bucharest and said that while this visit was expected to produce a new impulse in the bilateral relations it did not unfortunately happen due to Russia's position on inviting Ukraine and Georgia to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP). Despite the fact that NATO Secretary General and Mr. Putin did sign some documents, messages coming from Russian officials upon Putin's return to Russia clearly indicated that Russia will prevent the two countries from joining the Alliance and would even resort to military measures. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Welberts said that the NATO-Russia cooperation will continue within Russia's strategic interests with no other alternative to it; however, under these circumstances this cooperation will face increased challenges.

Two keynote presentations of the **panel on Asia** were moderated by **Professor Charles Burton** of Brock University's Department of Political Science, who briefly presented the topics - China's interests in Afghanistan and Canada's interests in Asia-Pacific.



Wenze You, Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Canada, made an overview of some of the issues in the Chinese foreign policy including the country's economic development, China-Canada relations, China's position on Afghanistan, its relations with this Central Asian country, and China-NATO relations. Tremendous achievements in China's economic growth and enhancing its national strength helped by transition of the Chinese economy from a centralized planned economy to a socialist market economy have contributed to the improvement of China's international posture and to China's becoming an important player in global politics. Mr. You reminded the participants that

Canada was among the first Western countries to recognize China diplomatically and established its trade relations as early as in 1960s, making China its second largest trading partner. He spoke about some aspects of China-Canada relations and mentioned some of them that need more work on both sides. In regard to China's stance on Afghanistan and the role it plays in that country, Mr. You said that China has been an active participant in joint international efforts in reconstruction projects by providing millions of aid dollars to build hospitals and water pipelines; in the security sector they helped train police force, signed agreements on cross-border issues, drug trafficking, crime prevention, etc. Mr. You



also gave a brief outlook on his country's relations with NATO. In particular he mentioned numerous exchanges and consultations with the Alliance especially in the security field including their cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation efforts. He also expressed hope that under current security situation in the region, the two countries will strengthen cooperation to better contribute to international peace and security.

James Boutilier, Special Advisor on Policy, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, delivered another eye-opening speech on Asia-Pacific affairs. He started his remarks by addressed the high school students in the audience. He said that the developments in the world **"will impinge upon you more and more"** and urged the students **"to pay particular attention to the work of organizations such as the Atlantic Council of Canada"** in their study of international relations. Mr. Boutilier's main observation was that **"the world center of gravity has moved from one ocean to another - from the Atlantic to the Pacific"** and that the pace with which this development is



increasingly taking shape is alarming in many terms: economic, political, demographic, etc. Unfortunately these new challenges are not being fully recognized by Canada's top policy and decision makers most of whom come from the Atlanticist era dominated by NATO. In Mr. Boutilier's opinion, they are inextricably interconnected with the economic shifts within Canada where Ontario seems to no longer have the dominant role in Canadian economy with the Canadian *center of gravity* moving from Ontario westwards - to Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Mr. Boutilier made an overview of complex bilateral relationships in Asia and these countries' relations with Russia. In his explanation he mentioned several historical events such as North Korea's nuclear program and Japan's concerns about it and how these developments affect the entire security regime in the region while also making an impact on the economic trends. Mr. Boutilier spoke about China's growing military spending and the concerns it causes in the region. He mentioned two other important players – Russia and India, whose geostrategic interests heavily depend on the changing dynamics of Asian politics. As he righteously argued, security threats to the maritime traffic are also a principal concern for many Asian countries. Mr. Boutilier expressed regret that Canada has ignored these significant shifts in Asian politics and has only recently begun to slowly move its foreign policy towards Asia. However, as NATO is expanding its partnerships and is increasingly undertaking out-of-area operations Canada, as one of the major contributors to NATO missions, will have to be prepared for new realities.

The last panel focused on Afghanistan and was moderated by **Col. (ret'd) John McKenna**, ACC's Vice President. The first speaker of the panel, **Ms. Michelle Parker**, an International Affairs Fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations in residence at the Rand Corporation in Washington, DC, recently returned from Afghanistan where she worked on her research project on **"Aligning Aid in Afghanistan"**.



She presented her insightful findings on challenges the international aid agencies face in working together to try to align their efforts in providing development assistance. According to Ms. Parker, the efforts of all development agencies are poorly coordinated; this becomes especially complicated when representatives of development agencies try to promote their respective governments' policies on providing development assistance without even working with the Afghan government. As she said, **"This is all supposed to be in support of the Afghan government; how many of those nations are actually talking to the Afghan government ... to coordinate a strategy at the provincial level? The answer is none"**. Ms. Parker had unfortunate experiences in working as a representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with 19 other USAID representatives in Afghanistan. This demonstrates another challenge: poor management of efforts within a single country's development agency and even between representatives of the same country. Ms. Parker talked about some specific cases of poor coordination of efforts; her findings were very impressive as well as new for many in the audience. She also explained how the USAID asks for funding from

the Congress, how this process is being implemented in the United States and how the Congress allocated funds to different USAID missions working overseas. Her overall observation of the involvement of international aid agencies was that their work and activities are poorly coordinated and that everybody realizes that there is a clear need for improvement.



Gregory Chin of York University's Department of Political Science and York Centre for Asian Research and a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo, spoke about the role of emerging donors in Afghanistan, in particular China and India. Prof. Chin explained that the issues of Afghanistan and its neighboring regional power, Pakistan, is an important one for China and India not only in the realm of regional stability, but also for Canadian strategic interests. In his presentation, Mr. Chin did not agree with assigning China to the category of "emerging donors" since providing development assistance to a country such as Afghanistan and other regions of the world - Caribbean, Latin America, Africa - is not new for China. What is new, however, is China's and India's rise as economies and how their rise **"affects the development paradigm in the global South."** In regard to China's role in Afghanistan, Prof. Chin said that the country has provided hundreds of millions of aid in U.S. dollars to Afghanistan, trained Afghan military and police, worked with international community on drug trafficking problems, anti-terrorism efforts and border management issues. He also talked about some Chinese reconstruction and investment projects in Afghanistan and concluded by saying that China's role in Afghanistan is very important. Afghanistan is also the largest recipient of aid from India, a country that has virtually no history of cooperation in development assistance, but as a democracy is a valuable partner for Western donors as its contributions in Afghanistan are significant. Similarly, the speaker told the participants about some of India's projects in Afghanistan. Mr. Chin also made an interesting comparison between China and India as regional players and their role in Afghanistan as well as how these two Asian powers position themselves as providers of development assistance. Mr. Chin's observation was that both China and India would be restructuring the mechanisms of their development assistance programs in the nearest future.

John Manley's closing keynote address was spectacular as he spoke about his personal experiences of visiting Afghanistan and studying the situation there first-hand, along with other members of the independent panel on Afghanistan. The group spent eight days in four provinces and interviewed many people. As Mr. Manley said, this **"tour was more extensive than probably any other high level Canadian group that has gone to Afghanistan."** He called the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan a noble one as this is a mission of a country that is a NATO member **"whose existence for Canada is of great importance"**. He criticized, however, NATO's policy in regard to the rotation of troops in Afghanistan, which, as he said, is the only way to coordinate international efforts. Due to the abundance of international NGOs in Afghanistan, lack of coordination within ISAF and the UN agencies, Mr. Manley said that there is a need for a comprehensive military, political and developmental strategy that would help to better coordinate the efforts of numerous players. In his words, weak strategy will not help build a truly democratic society in Afghanistan, a society that heavily relies on resolving disputes by traditional medieval ways as opposed to Western standards that respect human rights. The end game should be the establishment of a viable state with a more stable government that would provide security to its people on its own. Mr. Manley emphasized some very impressive improvements in Afghanistan. Concluding his speech he proudly said that Canadians are making a huge difference there that is **"measurable and tangible"** and helps Canada to rebuild the capacity of being listened to while dealing with situations like Afghanistan, where Canada, in Mr. Manley's words, has made the right choice by going to that mission.



The conference turned out to be an outstanding forum that raised many stimulating questions and helped exchange ideas on many issues that are of vital importance to Canada's domestic and foreign policy and political and public debate. We hope that the participants enjoyed this opportunity of engaging in the discussion on Canada's role in the world. No doubt, conferences like this will help raise awareness on many issues of concern to ordinary Canadians.

ACC Third Annual Golf Tournament

By Brandon Deuille

Although the rain showers did produce a short delay, they did not take away from a fun day of golf, conversation, a great dinner and some excellent prizes during the ACC's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on June 10. While the golf at Glen Eagle was an excellent opportunity to enjoy the fresh air, the highlight of the event was the extremely informative presentation by the keynote speaker, a truly great Canadian, Major-General Tim Grant. His talk provided the audience with a "boots-on-the-ground" perspective of what the brave men and women are really doing in Afghanistan.

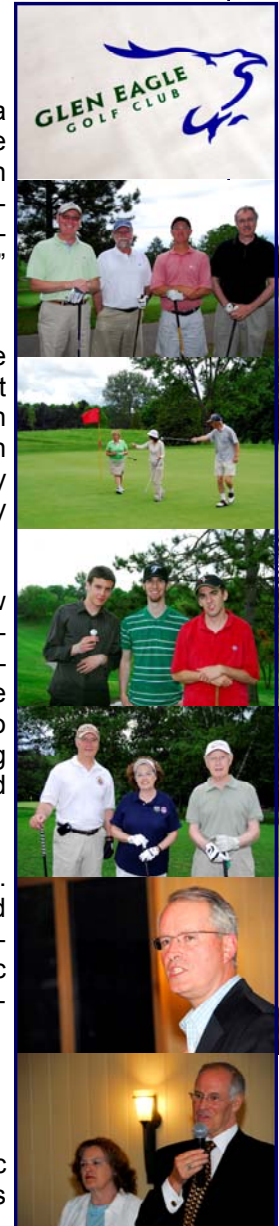
Major-General Grant was very candid with the audience about the difficulties of the present operations; he was also very encouraging when he spoke of the progress that is being made. He placed emphasis on the importance of providing the Canadian public with the information they need to gain a better understanding of the Afghan mission. Looking around the room, it was clear that those in attendance were very captivated by the presentation, and were largely agreeing with the words spoken by Maj.-Gen. Grant.

The golf tournament was a very fun, productive, and a great opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. It was also a marvelous day for ACC directors, members and guests to spend time and mingle in a less formal setting. While I, for instance, spent more time in the sand than David Hasselhoff and shot scores on some holes that would have been high even for a basketball game, it was an ideal way to spend a spring day. I would like to thank Mrs. Lindhout and the ACC for providing Sean Billings, Jérôme Boutillier and myself with a team that can only be considered as a work in progress.

The golf tournament has become one of the ACC's most fun and informative events. The ACC would like to thank everyone who came out for the golf and dinner and those who donated prizes. The golf tournament has developed into an excellent tradition for raising awareness about the ACC and Canada's role in NATO and the Atlantic Council is already looking forward to the fourth one in 2009. We hope to see everyone out on the links next year!

ACC Staff at DAYS 2008

The Atlantic Council of Canada sent two representatives to the annual Danish Atlantic Youth Seminar (DAYS) in Aalborg, Denmark on July 2-8, 2008. The theme of this year's seminar on "**International Security Politics and Conflict Management**" focused on Afghanistan and South Caucasus. Participants gathered at the Aalborg air base from all over the transatlantic region: NATO member states, Partnership for Peace countries and even a youth delegate from Jordan, a Mediterranean Dialogue country. DAYS 2008 was an academically stimulating experience with a number of informative lectures and presentations. Experts and practitioners from across the transatlantic region spoke about Afghanistan, energy security, and the regional conflicts in both the North and South Caucasus. The academic portion highlighted a simulation game on international negotiation and conflict management in the Caucasus. During the simulation, Sean Billings was the spokesperson for Armenia and Brandon Deuille was the Foreign Minister of Abkhazia. Much credit has to be



given to all participants who truly adopted the simulation seriously: it was their professionalism and diplomacy that made the game a complete success. While the academic aspects were the predominant focus of DAYS, participants took part in a number of cultural, historical and social events that, by the end of the six days, had produced new friendships.

Brandon Deuille and Sean Billings would like to share their experiences with the ACC members.

DAYS 2008: The “climax” of my Life

By Brandon Deuille

During the first night in Aalborg, Sean, myself, and the rest of the participants at the 2008 Danish Atlantic Youth Seminar (DAYS) were asked to explain a little about ourselves. They were the usual questions: place of birth, hobbies, education and background. However, the most interesting question asked was what we considered our “climax in life”. I jotted down that it was my first Model NATO conference in Ottawa in 2005 and Sean wrote that it was anytime he is on stage playing with his band. Little did we know that after 6 days of stimulating intellectual debate, lectures from a number of academics and international professionals, cultural and historical adventures and social activities that developed a number of friendships, Sean and I would realize that our answers had changed for the better. DAYS 2008 was without a doubt the “climax” of my life so far.



For me, it was first and foremost a tremendous honor to represent Canada at a transatlantic youth symposium. I could not help myself but to be a patriotic Canadian during the seminar when I was able to have social conversation with every participant in the room; the same could not be said for other attendees whose countries may not have very friendly relations with one another.



It was during the historical and cultural adventures that I was able to interact with many of the participants in numerous activities: a visit to a Viking graveyard, a tour of the old Aalborg city, a visit to a beach where the Baltic and North Atlantic came together, and a visit to a “desert”. Notwithstanding the beauty of these awe-inspiring sites, one cannot help but single out a favorite. While some of my European friends looked at me quizzically as I became so interested in the remnants of German concrete bunkers from the Second World War, I, as a student of the Second World War with a passion for military history, became a curious witness to visual history. Having grown up with them, literally in their own backyards, my European friends were somewhat puzzled at how a Canadian student could walk around inspecting heaps of concrete.



The visit to a Royal Air Force gravesite just outside of the airbase became extremely symbolic for me. On the graves were the names of 30 airmen, 29 from the United Kingdom and one from Canada. Having been my first experience at a war gravesite featuring the name of a Canadian serviceman, this was very significant for me. Another highlight was speaking with Master of Ceremonies Mogens Skjoth about his experience with the Danish resistance during the Second World War. While standing by a Danish coastal patrol helicopter after a spectacular air show and with both feet planted on the same airfield conquered by the German armed forces in April 1940, the scene was set: Sean and I were treated to a first-hand account of the resistance movement better than any book or movie could ever produce.

We were also treated to a number of academic and professional speakers during the lectures and debate period of DAYS. For me, listening to a Danish soldier speak about his experience as an intelligence officer in Afghanistan while wearing his ISAF uniform exhibited a “boots-on-the-ground” perspective of the mission in the war-torn country. During the other academic portion Sean and I participated in one of the greatest simulations I have ever had the pleasure to attend. The simulation about the South Caucasus was expertly run and the engagement within the framework of the game made for two interesting days of stimulating press conferences, international debates, backroom deals and professional diplomacy. The organizers did an excellent job of setting up and moving the game along. The result was

an intellectually engaging simulation that became the reality in South Caucasus.

It is only fitting that I leave the best for last: the other participants and the staff at the DAYS 2008 seminar. Immediately, as I left the plane and entered Aalborg I was greeted with a friendly handshake and warm welcome from one of the organizers who made DAYS the success it was - Troels Frøling, Secretary General of the Atlantic Treaty Association. Much of the credit has to be given to Berit Børgesen, and the rest of the organizers who put on a spectacular seminar. They were extremely well organized and to run the seminar like clockwork especially with 34 participants and ten staff is an accomplishment in and of itself. I felt that I developed a number of friendships which I hope will continue to last both personally and professionally as we all move closer to careers with our national governments and regional and international organizations. We all left with the bonding experience gained through a number of social activities. I presume the highlight for many was jumping from the jump tower with an instructor from the Danish Special Forces. Other friendships developed during other activities on the airbase: the *Grease* dance competition (I was lucky to be partnered with Berit, who was an extremely great dancer, and was able to bring home a second place for Canada), a karaoke competition, a quiz of the background material of DAYS and the Canadian song presentation "Show me the way to go home" to our fellow participants on the bus on the way to the airbase.

During one of our day events I along with the rest of the participants watched the sunset fall over Denmark after a day at the beach. This visit summed up the whole trip: DAYS like the sun-setting on this beautiful country can only be described as a surreal experience. It is hard to put into words how thankful and appreciative I am to the Atlantic Council of Canada and its president Mrs. Julie Lindhout for this experience at DAYS. It will be an event that I will remember for the rest of my life. As I walked into the humid Toronto weather outside Pearson I felt like a proud Canadian with a sense of accomplishment that coincided with an eye-opening and life-changing experience.



DAYS 2008: An experience to remember

By Sean Billings

I find it hard to put into words an event that is so anticipated that it always seems as though it is in the distant future. However, once the anticipated event arrives time passes too quickly for contemplative thought, and in the end one is left trying to digest everything that happened, after the fact. Such was my amazing experience at the 2008 Danish Atlantic Youth Seminar in Aalborg, Denmark.



I arrived at the Aalborg airbase on July 2, 2008 to a very warm reception by the incredible staff of DAYS; most of them are interns at the Danish Atlantic Council office in Copenhagen, Denmark. I was one of the first to arrive before the evening's introductory dinner and Danish folk dancing began. The dinner was a wonderful spread of delicious traditional Danish food, and this was the trend for all our meals during our stay. Once settled, the participants were introduced to each other, the staff, and to our Master of Ceremonies, Mogens Skjoth. Mogens is a truly remarkable man. He is a WWII veteran, an artist and a musician and was an inspiration to everyone. After the introductions, I further familiarized myself with the other participants through traditional Danish folk dance.

The Danish folk dancing was only the first of our social activities that was meant to break-down any social barriers and force the participants to step out of their comfort zone, in a lead up to the crisis simulation at the end of the seminar. Other social activities included a *Grease* themed dance contest of which I was tapped out early, but my fellow Canadian, Brandon Deuville, took second place. Jumping off a seventy-five foot paratrooper training tower meant to simulate a real zip line drop from 3000 feet. Participating in a national singing contest on the bus ride back from Skagen, the northern most part of continental Europe, where the Baltic Sea and the Atlantic Ocean collide, and finally a second singing



contest, this time consisting of Karaoke, in which I took second place.

Mogens also escorted the group on a tour around old Aalborg, which included a trip to the Aalborg castle, and ended at the meeting place of the Guild of Christian the 4th. This was of particular interest to Brandon and myself as this was the secret meeting place of the Danish Resistance in Aalborg. During the German occupation the cellar of the renaissance estate known as Jens Bang's Stenhus was a pub, but when the Germans began to frequent the pub the prominent townspeople informed the head of the German occupation in Aalborg that this was actually a private club meant for only the most distinguished of Aalborg's men, the "true Danes". The German commander agreed, and ensured the townspeople that his soldiers would not enter. Thus, with the German presence taken care of, Resistance members began to meet there. Using an unmarked (it is marked now) door in an alley a few streets away, unaccompanied Resistance members entered with a special knock (when restrictions in the town became tighter a key was given out) and would then travel down a series of corridors and a winding staircase to the cellar below the estate, where they could congregate without fear of the enemy. This is just one of many highlights of the seminar, but the highlights of my experience at DAYS do not stop with the social activities, the academic portion of the seminar also sticks out in my mind.



Every morning the participants would wake together to attend three or more lectures. For the first two days of lecture, we focused our attention on Afghanistan and NATO's role in the region. The highlight of these lectures for me was listening to Mogens son, First Lt. Thomas Skjoth, talk about his experience as a soldier on the ground in Helmand, Afghanistan. First Lt. Skjoth pointed out that the local population is quite willing to co-operate once trust and security have been established. He noted that the locals welcome their presence and are understanding when collateral damage occurs. He commented on the difficulty in spotting Taliban forces as they look very much like the local population, and use this to their advantage. He spoke about changing tactics such as setting up base in the town, not outside of town and having to leave after every firefight. He pointed out the differences between the terrain they thought they were going to experience (desert), and what they have actually encountered (green area, tall grass and trees, perfect for enemy cover). Inevitably he spoke about time: the Taliban have time on their side, whereas NATO countries are feeling the domestic pressures of a long-term conflict abroad, i.e. economic, manpower, and domestic pressure to bring the forces home.

The lectures on the Caucasus region were also interesting and important since I had almost no prior knowledge of the complications in that region (except the background material, which was a brief introduction at best). On the second last day, the academic and social portions of the seminar combined as the participants began the crisis simulation focusing on the Caucasus. This was a brand new experience for me: as I had never participated in anything like it before, I had no idea what to expect.

The participants were split into teams of 3 and 4 representing country delegations from the Caucasus. The staff and instructors made sure that no participant played on a team that was even close to their home country. For example, I was made the Spokesperson of the Armenian delegation, my colleague Brandon was the Foreign Affairs Minister of Abkhazia, and our friends from the United States became representatives of the Russian, Iranian, and Turkish governments respectfully. Everyone put on a completely new skin different from what were used to and managed to play their roles realistically and incredibly well. The countries were given a sheet of top-secret objectives and two days to complete as many objectives as possible. There were three negotiation rooms, two open to the public (any other participant, the instructors, and the three "members of the press") and one "secret" room. The simulation was one of the most intellectually intense and rewarding experiences, especially when every one of the participants took it as seriously as they did. In the end the instructor (who constantly threw obstacles into the simulation, and played a role of an "intelligence officer" to all of the countries) told the exhausted participants that it was the most realistic simulation he



had ever witnessed.

I was very privileged to be a participant at the seminar as it was one of the most interesting, thought-provoking and fun experiences of my life. I thank the Atlantic Council of Canada, its President, and staff members for their support in making Brandon and myself part of DAYS 2008, and I hope that more ACC interns get to experience this seminar in the future.

The participation of the Canadian delegates was partly made possible thanks to the financial support from the Department of National Defence's Security and Defence Forum.

Brandon Deuille is a second year Master's student at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, who is close to the completion of his summer internship with ACC. His interests include Canadian military history and its role in NATO. ACC would like to express its gratitude to Brandon for his significant contributions. **Sean Billings** is the Administrative Assistant at the Atlantic Council of Canada and holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Simon Fraser University. His interests include Canadian and European history.

NATO Presentation at St. Clement's School

By Andrei Sedoff



On July 4, 2008, I had the privilege to deliver a presentation on NATO's inception and its evolving role to a class at the St. Clement's all-girl School in Toronto. I encouraged the class of 9 students to interrupt me with questions at any time, hoping to make the presentation as engaging and interactive as possible. The girls turned out to be an enthusiastic and articulate group, just the right fit for achieving this presentation's ultimate goal. As I summarized NATO's history, I discovered their familiarity with the role of Article 5 in ensuring collective security for the Alliance. By the time I got to Canada's role in NATO, the presentation became really interactive.

The students had just finished reading their class assignment, Andrew Cohen's book "*While Canada Slept: How We Lost Our Place in the World*" released in 2003 and were eager to share their personal opinions on Canada's role in NATO and international affairs as a whole. A concern raised by one of the young ladies was Canada's waning role on the global arena in areas such as peacekeeping, diplomacy, and international assistance. I did my best to answer these great questions and to lay out Canada's present participation in NATO's ISAF mission in Afghanistan as an example of Canada's contribution to the three areas mentioned. The importance of Canada's "whole of government" approach in Afghanistan was stressed, stretching beyond combat operations and also focusing on reconstruction and humanitarian relief.

Other great questions pertained to decision-making and accountability for Canada's role in ISAF. They asked very specific questions like "Who decides when it's time for us to leave from Afghanistan?" and "Who reports on the progress we have made there?" My response was a brief summary of the parliamentary debates which have taken place on extending the mission, the diverse opinions of Canada's political parties on the topic, and the recent Manley Report and its recommendations. I strongly encouraged the girls to form their own opinions on the topic by presenting details on the ISAF mission in an objective manner. No matter what Canada ultimately decides to do with its ISAF mission, the girls acknowledged



that there are immense challenges still ahead to be tackled on the ground. I also had the opportunity to present NATO's cyber defense as a future challenge, using the cyber attack on Estonia in 2007 as an example. The challenge was featured as a question in the final exam for their summer course and I hear that the girls did a great job addressing questions and incorporating information from the presenta-

and professional experiences that have brought her to the Atlantic Council of Canada. She also distributed NATO materials to help the girls learn about the Alliance, and how to get more involved with the Council as well as international issues as a whole. The enthusiasm radiating from those young ladies is the driving force behind ACC's continued commitment to engage Canada's youth and to raise awareness of international issues.

I believe that through presentations such as this, the ACC can help young people take their understanding of NATO beyond the Cold War chapter in their history textbooks into the present day. The presentations are also a unique format for engaging youth in dialogue on Canada's role in international missions such as ISAF. The students were very passionate about Canada's need to contribute meaningfully to international unity. They also felt strongly about the need for accountability from the elected officials that decide the course of Canada's part in ISAF. As a Canadian youth myself, I was encouraged by the kind of energy exhibited by the students of St. Clement's School. I do not have the slightest doubt that Canadian public policy will benefit from their input as they become accomplished leaders in their fields. The need to continue engaging a broader audience of students through presentations like this and pay close attention to their opinions on NATO and Canada's international role as a whole is highly important for the future of Canada and the Atlantic community.

Andrei Sedoff is a student at York University entering his 3rd year of a Bachelor's with Honors program in Political Science and Criminology and aspires to pursue a Masters degree focusing on International Security. He became involved with the ACC in early 2008 as a volunteer. The ACC is thankful for his contribution to the Council's activities.

Other News and Upcoming Events



The Atlantic Council of Canada now has a **Facebook** group entitled "The Atlantic Council of Canada" for networking, keeping in touch, and information sharing. This is also a great way for the ACC to advertise any future events such as conferences to a broader network of those interested, particularly Young Professionals and University students. The group is updated on a constant basis with interesting articles, photos, and other news. It can be viewed at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=56637930441&ref=ts>.

We hope you will join us on the Facebook!

The Atlantic Council will hold its **Annual Fall Conference in Ottawa**. This year's theme will be "**NATO in the next decade**". The conference will take place on November 4, 2008 at DFAIT conference centre in the Lester B. Person Building. Further details will be provided in due time. We hope you can join us in Ottawa!



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