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Happy 60th birthday, NATO!

On April 4, 2009, it will be 60 years since the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington by the “Plenipotentiaries” of the twelve countries forming the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, and United States.

The Atlantic Council of Canada will highlight this significant milestone in international diplomacy and security at a series of events. We invite you all to be part of these celebrations. Mark the following on your calendar:

Gala Tribute Dinner, with General (Retired) Rick Hillier, April 8, 2009, Seeley Hall, Trinity College, Toronto

NATO at 60! What Choices and Challenges for the Alliance?, Spring Conference, April 21, 2009, Ignatieff Theatre, Trinity College, Toronto

Celebration Golf Tournament, June 9, 2009, Glen Eagle Golf Course, Bolton, Ontario. Chief of the Defence Staff, General Walt Natynczyk has been invited to join us.

NATO's New Strategic Concept, Fall Conference, November 2009, Ottawa

We are also planning a *NATO Briefing Tour to Brussels, via Paris*, September 26-October 3, 2009, and a *NATO Economy Forum* on May 26, 2009, to bring together representatives of the Canadian business community with representatives from several southeastern European NATO Member and Partner countries.

Our *Roundtable Speaker* series will continue to focus on the security issues of the day.

I look forward to meeting many new and old members at these events. Bring your friends and help us to highlight the importance of NATO and Canada's role in the Alliance.

Julie Lindhout, President.

ACC Update



Elaine Kanasewich holds a Master's degree in Strategic Affairs from the Australian National University and a Hon. Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Criminology from the University of Toronto. Upon completion of her master's, Elaine undertook an internship at the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, within the Nuclear/WMD Policy Directorate. Following her internship, Elaine worked briefly in Ottawa at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as the Desk Officer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. She has now joined the Atlantic Council of Canada as a Research Analyst and is the recipient of the 2008 Security and Defence Forum Scholarship, administered by the Department of National Defence. Elaine's research interests include nuclear policy, non-proliferation and security issues. She is also fluent in French

and Russian. Elaine can be reached at: elaine.kanasewich@atlantic-council.ca

Musings in the Shadow of the Brandenburger Tor

By Peter Vlossak, ACC Director

INTRODUCTION

The 54th Annual General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association, from November 10th to 12th 2008, was hosted in Berlin by the German Atlantic Association. I arrived full of questions. How would the assembly compare with last year's 53rd in Ottawa? What does Berlin look like after the Wall? Would some issue hijack the Berlin assembly in the way that the deadlocked election of a new ATA President continually disrupted the Ottawa program? Who would speak for the German government; who for the NATO?

"Recently, former Czech president Vaclav Havel and former Soviet Chief Mikhail Gorbachev have called for Berlin to establish a Cold War museum."

PREAMBLE

The Assembly organizers adopted a new and imaginative format. A brief statutory session preceded the late afternoon opening ceremony. The next morning the plenary session considered "NATO's Long Term Future". After lunch, concurrent roundtable discussions were hosted by four ambassadors of NATO member nations in their respective embassies. Later that afternoon two further discussions ensued in the Russian and Ukrainian embassies. The Closing ceremony and reception hosted by the Minister of Defence concluded a very full day. On the third morning another statutory session and rapporteur's report rounded out the Assembly.

The many dispersed, concurrent events limited the personal interchanges on the margins and restricted our chances to compare notes or share experiences during coffee breaks. Nonetheless, we did see many old friends and acquaintances and welcomed the return of the original Swedish and Armenian delegates. The Macedonian head of delegation had been in Ottawa as their Defence Minister. Since then they have had an election. It was encouraging to see a renewed Polish presence in the ATA and an honour to meet its president, a former Ambassador to NATO. The Austrians are also back. It is always a pleasure to exchange news with the Bulgarian head. What a surprise to find that the new Belgian President is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff College.

THE ASSEMBLY

During the opening ceremony, Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed the delegates to Berlin with a remarkable thirty minute, comprehensive review of Germany's security and defence policy. Last year in Ottawa the Minister of Health gave the keynote address. Dr Merkel was followed by the NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Last year the Deputy Secretary General spoke. Plus two for Berlin. All speakers bade farewell to the outgoing ATA President. The well-deserved tributes to Bob Hunter, five years in the post, were repeated frequently during the Assembly.

BERLIN

Spreading the venues among nine different locations in Berlin afforded plenty of exercise for the delegates. It also allowed visits to some unique, historic sites. Not surprisingly, the real story of the AGM was Berlin without the Wall. The city's transformation is astounding; the costs mind-boggling. The Wall came down on the 9th of November, 1989 and only a few short decaying sections have survived. The path of the outer wall is now identified throughout the city by two adjacent lines of cobblestone and can be followed with GPS equipped self-guided Wall tour devices.

Now there are regrets that so much history has been erased. Recently former Czech president Vaclav Havel and former Soviet chief Mikhail Gorbachev have called for Berlin to establish a Cold War museum. Perhaps it will be at the former location of Checkpoint Charlie where, currently, some young entrepreneurs dressed in mock American and Russian uniforms will, for a price, pose for pictures and issue "visas" with the various Occupied Berlin jurisdiction stamps.



Brandenburger Tor, Berlin

The jewel of the city is again Pariser Platz split by the tree lined boulevard Unter den Linden leading east from the Brandenburg Gate. The centuries old trees are long gone but replanted ones are thriving as are the many new buildings. Jutting out into the square is the storied Adlon Hotel. Chancellor Merkel addressed the AGM in its grand ballroom. The hotel, destroyed in the war, was cloned in 1996 and, remarkably, returned to its burnished wood, marble and crystal elegance. It was here that Greta Garbo declared, "I want to be alone"; and, more recently, Michael Jackson dangled his baby over a balcony railing.

A few doors down, the American Embassy hosted one of the discussions. Rebuilt in its original pre-War location in the shadow of the Brandenburg Gate it was opened on the 4th of July 2008. Security concerns, however, necessitated rerouting a number of adjacent roads. Across Pariser Platz the French Embassy has also been rebuilt on its previous site. Nearby are the British, Hungarian and Russian Embassies; all were venues for the Assembly.

The Russian Embassy, the first major building project in post-war East Berlin, is a massive pile of stone occupying, with the Aeroflot offices, a large city block. It flies the white, blue, and red flag but the hammer-and-sickle window frame decorations attest to its Soviet origins.

The Closing ceremony was held in the German Federal Ministry of Defence which is housed in the Bendlerblock on the renamed Stauffenbergstrasse. It was here in October 1943 that military resistance to Hitler was initiated and "Operation Valkyrie" was planned. Tom Cruise was nowhere to be found.

The Canadian Ambassador hosted the ACC group at a working lunch with the senior political and military members of the delegation. The visit also included a tour of the stunning new building. The Canadian embassy anchors the redevelopment of Leipziger Platz which had been levelled to provide a "killing zone" of the Wall system. The spectacular view from the tenth floor dining room overlooks the Sony building in Potsdamer Platz on one side. The dramatic glass cupola of the Reichstag dominates the skyline on the other. For those who missed the lunch a virtual tour is available at www.berlin.gc.ca

EPILOGUE

What a fantastic city! Its transformation has been phenomenal since my last visit twenty years ago. Thanks to the German Atlantic Association for making ATA happen in Berlin. The future is also promising. Our final discussion, at the Ukrainian Embassy, was somewhat upstaged by the buzz that ATA 2009 would be in Kiev. Plan to be there, especially on the margins; and read some Bulgakov in the meantime.

Reflections on Arctic Sovereignty Canada's Arctic Future

By Brian Dickson

On the afternoon of November 11, the ACC dined with Canada's ambassador to Germany, H.E. *Peter M. Boehm*. Also in attendance were the Deputy Head of Mission Ms. Hillary Childs-Adams, Canada's Defense Attaché at the embassy Colonel Tony Battista and the First Secretary Thomas Fetz. Representing the ACC was our President Julie Lindhout, her executive assistant Brian Dickson, Research Analyst Darya Klepchikova, President of the ACC's Youth section and YATA Vice President Jonathan Nuss, Director Peter Vlossak and Mrs. Donnaleen, Vlossak, Director Michael Klosch, Ian Rankine and Pawel Osiej, a former ACC Intern.

There was a lively discussion regarding Germany's role in NATO and the views of the German Republic on the Afghan mission. But in the city where the remnants of the Cold-War are still evident, with the Berlin Wall now being partially reconstructed to serve as a focal point for tourist audio walking tours, the discussion soon turned to Russia and energy issues as well as Canada's Arctic Sovereignty.

After lunch, we were given a tour of the Embassy building, which was officially opened on April 29, 2005. Located on what was once "no man's land" beside the Berlin Wall, near the historic Leipziger Platz, the building is a showcase of "Canadiana", from the building materials used to the art work displayed in the building. Of particular interest is the "green roof" which has a stone "waterway" in the shape of the Mackenzie Delta running through it. Berliners, who have a penchant for nicknames, call it the Embassy with the river on top.

But what particularly stuck with me was the issue of Canada's Arctic Sovereignty – it intrigued to the point that upon my return, I did some research on my own. Here is what I found:

Two-thirds of the world's untapped Oil and Mineral Reserves are believed to be housed in the Arctic Shelf. Moreover, informed speculation suggests that by 2050, the effects of Global Warming will open the Northern Passage, making it accessible to international trade. The Northern Passage will overtake the Panama Canal as the main trading route between Russia and Western Europe, with Japanese and East Asian companies also expected to become major clients. Canada stands to tremendously benefit from the taxation on these resources and shipping, however, this will depend on its ability to secure international recognition of the territory as its own – recognition which is currently in dispute.

"Future territorial disputes will be settled in a new manner, giving precedence to science."

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea allows a ten-year period, upon ratification, for countries to bring forth territorial claims to extend their 200 nautical mile limit. Five countries have staked territorial claims in the Arctic region: Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the United States. Russia is by far the most active in the region and was the first to set out to prove *scientifically* that the Arctic and Siberia are linked via the Lomonosov Ridge (an underwater shelf that runs through the arctic).

In 2007, a Russian deep-sea vessel dove below sea level in the Arctic circle. At 4,200 meters, the floor of the arctic shelf, it planted a Russian flag in a titanium capsule. Russia, however, is not the only country staking claims to Arctic territory, nor may they provoke the greatest challenge to Canada's claim of Arctic sovereignty.

The Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has been allocating tens of millions of dollars to The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS) resulting in a comprehensive map that also shows the Lomonosov Ridge as an extension of Danish territory. Since 1988, Denmark has continually placed its flag on Hans Island, a small Island that sits right in the middle of the international Line of Control between Canada and Greenland. In 2006, the Danish navy went so far as to occupy Hans Island (albeit for a short time).

Meanwhile, the United States asserts that the Northwest Passage is an international strait, thus putting it outside of the juridical jurisdiction of Canada. Furthermore, its submarines have been occasionally spotted in this region despite stern objections from Canada.

Putting issues of sovereignty aside, there are still many factors that will inhibit international trade from using the Northern Passage for the next few decades. First and foremost, global warming has not advanced to the stage whereby shipping through these waters is economically feasible; there is simply still too much ice. By 2050, a yearly recurring summer melt is expected; however, ships built to withstand the sub-arctic temperatures, unpredictable weather and occasional run-away iceberg will still need to be designed and built. Icebreaker ships will also need to be rapidly produced, as will refueling stations and rescue facilities capable of dealing with an increase in the number of ships cruising through long treacherous passages. Sailors will need to be specially trained on how to navigate through these rugged waters while ships will need to travel more slowly than usual.

Nevertheless, Canada is also using science to support its territorial claims. Conservative leader Stephen Harper has made Arctic sovereignty a top national security priority and has committed to fight for our Arctic claims by announcing a \$7.5 billion dollar package that will enable the construction of eight Navy Arctic patrol ships to help protect northern sovereignty. This will add to the pair of mini yellow submarines that are due to become operational in 2010. Currently, Canada's presence and patrol is done mainly by 3900 Arctic Rangers on snowmobiles and dog sleds. The Department of National Defence is hoping to increase that number to 5000 by 2011. But since these Rangers are considered part-time reservists who are paid only for training or their participation on special missions, as well as the fact that participation in the Canadian Army is already five times higher in northern communities than the rest of Canada, this increase in manpower will be difficult.

Since 2007, all parties involved have formally agreed to settle their arctic territorial disputes through the United Nations. In spite of this, a new paradigm shift is occurring. Future territorial disputes will be settled in a new manner, giving precedence to science. As a result, tectonic shifts, water flows, satellite imagery and "advancements" in cartography will likely eclipse past methods which relied on Culture, Religion or Diaspora to determine borders.

Atlantic Youth Converge on Berlin **Report from the 54th General Assembly of the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA)** *By Darya Klepchikova*

In November of 2008, the 54th General Assembly (GA) of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) met in Berlin, Germany under the joint organization of the German Atlantic Association (DAG), the ATA, and NATO's Public Diplomacy Division (PDD). Following well established traditions, a conference for students and young professionals representing a new generation of international relations experts – YATA – is held in conjunction with the ATA GA. This time, more than a hundred young people from over 30 countries attended the event. Canada was represented by Jonathan Nuss (McGill University), Pawel Osiej (ATA), Brian Dickson (Atlantic Council of Canada), and myself.

The YATA conference comprised mainly of high level panel discussions in a variety of prominent locations around the Branderburger Tor in Berlin. In addition, several foreign Embassies located in Berlin kindly opened their doors for our German hosts, giving attendees the opportunity to choose from a variety of forums and speakers during the November 11th event.



YATA Delegates

"...the importance of both the ATA and YATA activities is that they build and sustain a solid base of political and popular support for NATO," - ATA President Amb. Robert Hunter

Upon our arrival, on November 8, we were warmly welcomed by the DAG members and YATA Executive Board at a reception in the beautiful Great Marble Hall of the Palais am Festungsgraben. Mr. Troels Froling, Secretary General of the ATA, gave an opening speech, followed by the presentation of YATA awards for 2008. The reception was also a great networking opportunity, and invigorating discussions followed the official part of the evening.

The next day, a conference was held at the Federal College of Security Studies (BAKS), with the highlight of the day being the presentation of joint research projects from several YATA members. Among the topics discussed were cyber terrorism, strategic cooperation of NATO and EU, Serbian neutrality vs. partnership with NATO, NATO's role in the Arab gulf and Turkey's relationship with NATO. Following the presentations, a video conference was or-

ganized with the Russian Youth Association for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in Moscow. This provided the participants with some valuable insights. The panelists were Admiral Ferdinando Sanfelice di Monteforte, President of the Military Committee and the Italian Atlantic Committee, and Carlo Masala, Professor of International Relations from Munich University. The main focus of the discussion was the new NATO, its new priorities and the need for a new approach to partnerships. Prof. Masala emphasized the importance of NATO's military component: "it's all about operations." According to him, NATO needs to move away from geographic cooperation and more towards functional cooperation, regrouping its partnerships accordingly. Partners, he claimed, should be able to contribute to NATO's military objectives, moving NATO towards "partnership for operations." Prof. Masala's speech was definitely thought-provoking and gave rise to some controversial reactions from several YATA delegates, which led to intense discussions during the question and answer period.

Conferences and activities organized by the hosts were numerous and diverse while speeches and discussions were so interesting that it was impossible for me to include all of them in this brief report. Nevertheless, I will try to cover November 10, a day that in my opinion was the highlight of this General Assembly for both ATA and YATA members.



Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General

It started for the YATA delegates with a morning session during which the ATA President, Amb. Robert Hunter gave a welcoming speech. He emphasized the importance of both ATA and YATA activities in building and sustaining a solid base of political and popular support for NATO. After that, future strategies for action were discussed and a suggestion was made to improve communication among national chapters by using Skype conferences, Facebook groups and organizing weekly events. A research project was presented later on the topic of Azerbaijan and Turkey, with a focus on energy and security. YATA President, Giuseppe Belardetti, welcomed two new national chapters into YATA family: Afghanistan and Montenegro. And finally, a long-anticipated YATA Board

Elections took place. It is important to mention that Jonathan Nuss, a Canadian YATA member, was re-elected for a second term as Executive Vice President, despite the fact that other very qualified candidates were running for the position. So

he will continue representing Canada and our interests on the world stage within the YATA context. Congratulations, Jonathan!

After the elections, YATA members joined the ATA for the official opening ceremony of the 54th General Assembly that was held in Hotel Adlon Kempinski, next to the Branderburger Tor. During the ceremony, we were honored to hear an address by Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. Among other things, she talked about the "vernetzte Sicherheit" – a comprehensive approach to NATO's Afghanistan mission comprising both military and civilian efforts, emphasizing the need for the Afghan people to take their fate in their own hands and develop capabilities to defend themselves without relying on international forces. Then the floor was given to H.E. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General, who talked about NATO as a unique instrument of great strategic value by bringing together North America and Europe. He refuted an existing opinion that the Alliance should make clear and simple choices on some controversial issues such as NATO enlargement or Russia, European Security and Defence Policy or NATO, more military or more civilian approach to Afghan mission, an Alliance for territorial defence or an Alliance for missions abroad. NATO Secretary General called these choices "misleading", claiming that NATO should reconcile seemingly contradicting policy tracks despite the challenges inherent in the task. Impressed by his powerful speech, the audience reacted with many insightful questions that were aptly answered by Mr. Scheffer.



Reichstag, the seat of the Bundestag

Following the reception, YATA delegates were invited for an excursion to the Reichstag, the seat of the Lower House of German Parliament – the Bundestag. There, we were taken on a very informative tour around the Reichstag and learnt that 613 members of Parliament from six different political parties meet there, while thousands of journalists, lobbyists, and general public come to experience parliamentary debates live. We also had a chance to visit the Reichstag's roof gallery and enjoy a wonderful view of Berlin, just as three million people do every year.

This very eventful day was concluded with a delicious dinner in one of Berlin's many good restaurants where, in a warm and friendly atmosphere, we continued having debates on the issues of transatlantic cooperation and the ways YATA can contribute to a better understanding of NATO's role in today's volatile world.

In conclusion, I just wanted to extend my thanks to Mrs. Julie Lindhout, the ACC and the ATA for this incredible opportunity. It provided me with first-hand experience of hearing very influential and important speakers, as well as participating in stimulating discussions and debates among young professionals. In light of the recent debate on Canada's role in the Afghan mission, it was really interesting to meet YATA delegates from Afghanistan who emphasized how important the Canadian presence in the province of Kandahar is and how much Canadians have managed to achieve in terms of training, reconstruction and development. Finally, meeting so many intelligent young people, enthusiastic about NATO goals, believing in its values, and willing to spread this knowledge among general public of their respective countries cannot but inspire.

Signs of Progress **Kabul Art School** *By Brian Dickson*

On the evening of Sunday November 8 the participants of the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association, myself included, attended an art exhibit of the graduate female artists from the Kabul University art school. This exhibit showcased



Crooning for the Sun



In the Extremity of Looks



Schoolgirl



Portal

Atlantic Council at Trinity College *By Jesse Beatson*

In September 2008, the Atlantic Council of Canada and Trinity College at the University of Toronto formed a strategic partnership based on mutual interest in promoting a broader and deeper understanding of international peace and security issues relating to NATO. The main hub of NATO activity at Trinity is called fittingly the "Atlantic Council at Trinity College" and is run exclusively by students.

Trinity College is associated with one of Canada's leading centers for interdisciplinary academic research on global issues, the Munk Center, and runs the University of Toronto international relations program at the undergraduate and graduate levels. For this reason, Trinity attracts many talented students interested in international affairs. While the ACTC club's membership is not reserved exclusively for these students, it does offer them a way to supplement core curriculum with more hands-on learning about NATO.

Although only a relatively new club, the ACTC has already had the pleasure of hosting a roundtable event with Frederic Labarre, a professor at Baltic Defence College and expert commentator on Russia – Georgia relations, thanks to administrative support from the ACC. At this event, Trinity students learned more about Russian military capabilities and the prospects of a resurgence of an aggressive Russian foreign policy. Mr. Labarre also provided some analysis about the recent conflict with Georgia, emphasizing the role the Georgians played in provoking such a strong military response from Russia, a side of the story that was given little attention in the western media.

In the near future, Trinity's Atlantic Council hopes to work to continue pursuing an active relationship with the ACC in order to bring NATO issues to students and promote constructive dialogue about global politics and Canada's role on the world stage. In addition, our club is always looking for new members. For more details, please feel free to contact me directly.

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Building our Atlantic Community

ACC travels to Kiev

November 17-28, 2008

By Lana Polyakov

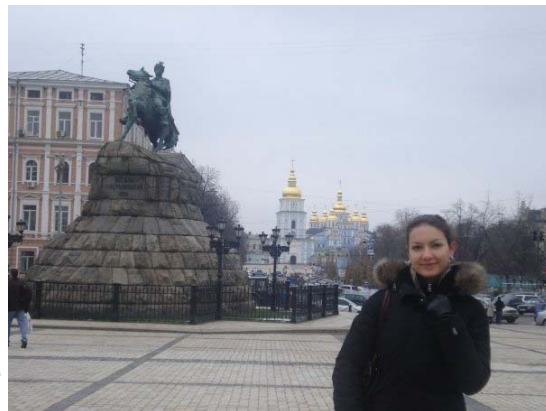
The 53rd General Assembly in Ottawa was not only a great success because it went smoothly and was a great informative high level event that brought together delegates and speakers from over 36 different countries, but also because it is where Ukraine voiced their desire to host a General Assembly of their own, and where a new relationship was established between the Atlantic Council of Canada (ACC) and the Atlantic Council of Ukraine (ACU) that has been flourishing ever since.

"The long-term goal is to establish a strong working relationship with Ukraine and contribute to their reform process through professional and institutional capacity."

Traditionally, small associations such as the ACU are encouraged by the assistance of the Atlantic Treaty Association's (ATA) long-time active members. Given the immense success of the Assembly in Ottawa, the ACU had appealed to the ACC for support to share their knowledge and expertise of General Assembly preparation techniques, as well as their hope in building a working ongoing partnership between Canada and Ukraine. Also, the NATO Bucharest Summit, in which Canada played a key role, had recognized the membership perspective of Ukraine to join NATO. Ukraine is an emerging strategic partner of Canada and NATO in the realm of security and defence; a transitional economy and an emerging democracy that relies heavily on international support

for democratic governance through the support and confidence building of civil society and accountable public institutions.

The ACC and other ATA members have assisted the organization in Ukraine to plan and implement various smaller scale projects on a national level, but this was too limited. The ACC thus launched a new ambitious project entitled "Canada-Ukraine Atlantic Partnership" aspiring to travel to Ukraine to strengthen the relationship and understand better the current situation in Ukraine, while rendering the continued assistance more effective. An application was put forward to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) asking for support and a travel subsidy. The funding application was approved and in November 2008 ACC President Julie Lindhout and I travelled to Kiev.



In the inception of this projects' initiative it was not yet decided whether the right to host the Assembly would be granted to Ukraine. In 2008, ACU put forward a formal proposal at the 54th General Assembly in Berlin to host the 55th one in Kiev. Partly thanks to the strong support and willingness of our ACC President Mrs. Julie Lindhout, and her offer to provide continuous training and guidance for the ACU throughout the entire process of Assembly planning and otherwise, the ATA Council ap-



proved letting Ukraine host the 55th General Assembly in Kiev in 2009. Mrs. Lindhout then flew directly from Berlin to Kiev while I joined her there from Toronto.

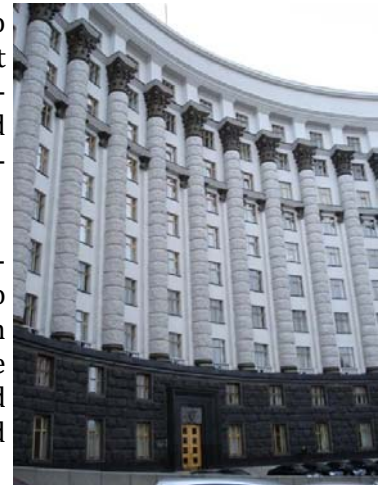
The short-term goal of this project is for ACC to share its knowledge on running a public institution and assist Ukraine to organize their very first General Assembly with the expected attendance of some 400 delegates, including 75-100 Youth delegates. The long-term goal is to establish a strong working relationship with Ukraine and contribute to their reform process through professional and institutional capacity.

Our trip was all about meetings, meetings, and then some more meetings! Mrs. Lindhout, myself, and the ACU Vice President, Oleg Kokoshinskiy met with a large number of key players including Michel Duray, Director, NATO Information and Documentation Centre; the Canadian Ambassador, Daniel Caron; Christopher Fitzgerald, Counselor for Public Affairs, US Embassy; the Counsellor at the Slovakian Embassy; Mr. Borys Tarasjuk, Ukraine Member of parliament; Vadym Prystaiko, Deputy Director General, NATO Directorate General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Representative of the Cabinet, and representatives of several foundations and think tanks, to name a few.

All those we met were in consensus that hosting the ATA Assembly will be a good thing for Ukraine and its civil society. In each case ACC President outlined the purpose of an ATA Assembly, which is to deal with ATA business, create networking and information opportunities for all ATA members, including opportunities to learn more about the host country, and to heighten the awareness of NATO and security issues among all the participants and in the host country.

As the days went on, it had become obvious to us that the Ukrainians definitely want to be good hosts and provide a very good informative program. All the people we met with, regardless of their positions were in agreement that this event is a great achievement for Ukraine, and many were very flattered that Canada was being so generous and understanding—wanting to see Ukraine grow and get stronger. In fact, many were surprised that Canada cared about Ukraine at all and were very grateful for all our help.

Given Ukraine's political past, the cultural differences and traditions were most interesting for us to observe. For example, we have learned from everyone we spoke to (including NATO representatives) that it is better for the name "NATO" not to appear in the title of the Assembly, but to focus on security building for civic society, and let the role of NATO emerge in the program through the words of the Secretary General and other NATO representatives which would reduce the likelihood of demonstrations and other negative reactions from the public.



We have also learned that unlike in many other western countries, businesses in Ukraine are not likely to provide direct funding contributions to ACU type NGOs. They provide funds to Foundations which then redistribute the grants. That is why we met with some of the more likely foundations to alert them and get their input. All in all, they were very supportive and promised to help in any way they could.

Many lecture style conversations were carried out by ACC President as well as myself with the staff of ACU regarding work ethics, internal politics, NGO, and Atlantic Council workings as a whole. ACC put a lot of emphasis on the international standards for an acceptable NGO, and how the ACU should improve its internal workings to meet those standards. The ACU was very receptive; the staff already began implementing some of our suggestions in line with democratic governance within their own organizational structures and clearly appreciating the importance of Ukraine's civil society. A great deal was also accomplished in terms of beginning the planning process of the 55th General Assembly.

The ACU now has a better understanding of how a private non-governmental organization can plan such an event

without their government's direct involvement and yet influence the government all at the same time. They began to grasp the importance of the role the civil society can play in shaping the future of the country. How a person's voice can be heard democratically was a big part of what the ACU realized they can accomplish through this project and future ones to follow there after.

The ACC now has a productive long distance relationship with our Ukrainian counterpart, assisting them in planning events and developing materials to raise the awareness of the values of democracy and good government in their country. Our face to face meeting improved our understanding and was a priceless experience. We also laid the groundwork for hopefully sending a young Canadian to Ukraine in 2009 to assist the ACU with the actual implementation of the General Assembly.

In 2009, the ACC will continue to remain in close contact with the ACU to support the hosting of the ATA Assembly. We will also try to raise funds from private Canadian sources to provide a Canadian intern to help the ACU with logistics for the Assembly. Beyond 2009, the ACC will look at other ways to keep the ACU actively involved with international activities and work to establish a network for an internship exchange program; a steady flow of interns that may be available to come to the ACC yearly in order to learn and receive first-hand training from an established, successful, non-governmental institution. This will promote good governance and allow a Canadian institution to focus Canadian efforts on training and setting good examples for Ukrainian institutions through accountability, public-sector capacity building, preventing future potential conflicts, and promoting democratization as a whole.

The ACC is very proud of this achievement, and looks forward to external support from our members and partners. If you have any questions or comments, or advice on potentially obtaining funding for this initiative kindly contact me at your convenience: ana.polyakov@atlantic-council.ca

The Enduring Value of NORAD **The cornerstone of Canadian-US homeland defence** By Elaine Kanasewich

On January 15, 2009, the Deputy Commander of NORAD, LGen. Charlie Bouchard spoke to ACC, RCMI and CIC members about the enduring value of NORAD. As NORAD's second-in-command, General Bouchard delivered a frank and engaging presentation, reminding us that NORAD has been, and will remain the cornerstone of Canadian-US homeland defence. If anything, 9/11 demonstrated that North America's safety cannot be taken for granted and that conflicts can hit close to home. As a result, attitudes, practices and beliefs regarding North American defence needed re-adjusting. With this in mind, Gen. Bouchard began his presentation with a retrospective on NORAD's history and purpose. He then moved on to describe the new strategic environment within which NORAD operates, concluding with an analysis on what NORAD brings to Canadian and American defence.



LGen. Charlie Bouchard

In reminding us that NORAD was created to deter, detect and defend North American airspace, Gen. Bouchard introduced his first key message: that both nations must work together in order to ensure the protection of North America as a whole. This is no easy task given that the area NORAD covers stretches from the High North to the US Virgin Islands. During the Cold War, NORAD guarded against Soviet bombers or missile attacks. But after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and especially 9/11, it became evident that NORAD was operating in a different threat environment. This led to Gen. Bouchard's second key message: that NORAD must be able to evolve and adapt to change in order to remain successful. 9/11, he said, helped make NORAD stronger, more visible and more significant.

"...for Canada, it gains access to US equipment, training and testing facilities, as well as secures valuable US investments in its radars and warning systems."

Consequently, NORAD's missions increased. It now began looking inward, working with civilian air traffic control to ensure operational awareness inside North America. A maritime surveillance component was also added to NORAD's

tasking. US NORTHCOM and Canada Command were created to monitor domestic air and maritime traffic, with NORAD remaining the “center of gravity.” By continuing the relationship, both countries achieve a strengthened deterrence and increased surveillance capability. Specifically for Canada, it gains access to US equipment, training and testing facilities, as well as secures valuable US investment in its radars and warning systems. All this greatly enhances NORAD’s overall ability to continue keeping North America safe. Despite this, Gen. Bouchard conceded that Canada and the US can still work to improve their information sharing and learn how to “speak the same language” when it comes to defence matters.

Following Chatham House rules, Gen. Bouchard took some time to entertain questions, most of which pertained to missile defence and American nuclear retaliation options. His final remarks were that when it mattered, a Canadian was always in the room – putting a succinct and effective conclusion to his discussion on the enduring value of NORAD: elaine.kanasewich@atlantic-council.ca



President Julie Lindhout presents LGen. Bouchard with an ACC tie

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