

Canadian NATO  
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire  
canadienne de l'OTAN

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary  
Delegation  
to the Annual Session**

**Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)**

**Reykjavik, Iceland  
October 5 – 9, 2007**

# Report

The Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association has the honour to present its report on the Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, held in Reykjavic, Iceland, October 5-9, 2007. The Canadian delegation was represented by the Association's Chair, Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P., Senator Raynell Andreychuk, Senator Jane Cordy, Senator Joseph A. Day, Senator Percy Downe, Senator Pierre Claude Nolin, Mr. Claude Bachand, M.P., Mrs. Dawn Black, M.P., Mr. Daryl Kramp, M.P., Mrs. Cheryl Gallant, M.P.,

Mr. Joseph McGuire, M.P. and Mr. Anthony Rota, M.P. The Delegation was accompanied by Mr. Wolfgang Koerner, Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament, Mr. Denis Robert, outgoing Executive Secretary and Ms. Jodi Turner, incoming Executive Secretary.

## OUTLINE

The 2007 Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly was held in Laugardalshöllin Exhibition Centre, Reykjavic, Iceland from October 5-9, 2007. Details of the proceedings, including a full summary of all meetings, can be found on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly website at <http://www.nato-pa.int/Default.asp?SHORTCUT=1230>. Detailed committee reports are at <http://www.nato-pa.int/Default.asp?SHORTCUT=16>.

The first meeting of the session was that of the Delegation Secretaries, held on October 5, 2007. The Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security, the Defence and Security Committee and the Political Committees all met on October 6-7, 2007. The Science and Technology Committee met on October 6, 2007 and the Economics and Security Committee met on October 7, 2007. The Standing Committee met on October 8, 2007 and the final Plenary Sitting was held on October 9, 2007.

## 9 OCTOBER 2007

### Plenary Session

At the opening of the Plenary sitting, Mr. José Lello, President of the Assembly, paid tribute to the Hon. Paul E. Gillmor (U.S.), Vice President of the Assembly, who had recently passed away. The Assembly then observed a minute of silence.

During the proceedings, Senator Pierre Claude Nolin (Canada) was elected Treasurer of the Assembly by acclamation.

Amongst others, the Plenary was addressed by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer who called upon members to play a more active role in explaining NATO's engagements to their respective publics. Mr. De Hoop Scheffer noted that it will be particularly important to manage the public's expectations about NATO operations – to explain the dangers involved, the long-term character of some operations and the benchmarks for defining success. He went on to argue that “we must show continued political commitment to our Afghanistan mission” and at the same time to “encourage greater Afghan ownership”.

The Secretary General also emphasized the importance of such issues as enlargement, partnerships, energy security, cyber and missile defence, and the fight against global terrorism.

Mr. José Lello also addressed members. In his remarks, he stressed that the Alliance is defined by what it is “for” and not by what it is against. NATO stands for the common values and beliefs of its members. Primarily, the Alliance stands for parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, and individual freedom. These, according to Mr. Lello, are things that we cannot take for granted, a fact particularly well understood by those who have lived under authoritarian regimes. He concluded by arguing that member states have no territorial ambitions, and no aggressive intentions and that NATO’s only enemies are those who seek to destroy civilized societies, and whose authority stems “from the bullet and not the ballot”.

During the adoption of reports and resolutions, Senator Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), General Rapporteur of the Political Committee, presented the report on *NATO Transformation* as well as the accompanying resolution. Senator Andreychuk then presented a further report on *NATO-Russia Relations* along with an accompanying resolution. Both reports and resolutions, the latter with minor amendments, were adopted.

Senator Pierre Claude Nolin then presented the report of the Science and Technology Committee on *Missile Defence* as well as an accompanying draft resolution. Senator Nolin also presented the Committee’s report on *Reinforcing the Global Response to Climate Change* along with an accompanying resolution. Both were adopted.

## **6-7 OCTOBER 2007**

### **Defence and Security Committee**

During its deliberations on *Missile Defence*, the Committee heard from Mr. Robert Bell, Senior Vice-President, European Business Development, SAIC. Mr. Bell argued that an Iran with long range missiles and weapons of mass destruction would be deemed a threat by many in the Alliance. He also noted that a missile defence system could be viewed as a viable alternative to such a threat. The diplomatic option, he suggested had already shown its limits with China and Russia unwilling to impose stronger sanctions. A further option, a pre-emptive strike against Iranian nuclear facilities could lead to a full scale regional conflict with serious consequences. Thus, in the absence of a NATO defence system, the U.S. missile defence system could be seen as offering a “third way” beyond the choice of accepting the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran and a pre-emptive strike. It would also allow NATO to assure its citizens that their safety from an Iranian strike was not dependent solely on the threat of Western nuclear retaliation.

The Committee then heard from General Vladimir Nikishin, Deputy Head of the International Treaty Direction, General Direction of International Military Co-operation, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation. General Nikishin disagreed with Mr. Bell on the urgent need to contain Iran using a missile shield. Instead he argued that Tehran does not plan to develop missiles capable of hitting targets in Europe or in the United States. Europe is Iran’s most important trading partner and it would

nevertheless be deterred by the prospect of a devastating retaliatory strike. He concluded by arguing that the U.S. is overestimating the Iranian threat.

The Committee then considered its Draft General Report, *Afghanistan: Assessing Progress and Key Challenges for the Alliance* presented by Mr. Frank Cook (UK). During discussion, Mr. Claude Bachand (Canada) highlighted the importance of Afghan public support to the NATO mission. In addition, he raised questions on the current burden sharing system in Afghanistan between ISAF members, and asked whether it is possible to devise a rotation as well as a fairer funding mechanism for troops deployed in the country.

After consideration of its other draft reports, the Committee heard from Mr. Leo Michel, Research Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defence University, United States. His topic was, *NATO-EU Cooperation in Operations: Challenges and Opportunities*. Mr. Michel focused on the operational dimension of NATO-EU cooperation. In his opinion, NATO and the EU should be more concerned with what they could and should do together on the ground, instead of focusing on mere statements of principle. He suggested that failure to shift to this more useful operational focus could have serious consequences for ongoing operations. Both the operations in Afghanistan and Kosovo, he argued, underscore the importance of improved political and operational coordination between the two organizations, in order to maintain stability and security in those countries.

## **6-7 OCTOBER 2007**

### **Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security**

The Committee began its session with a presentation by Björn Bjarnason, Minister of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs of Iceland, on *Iceland and the Civil Dimension of Maritime Security*. In his presentation Mr. Bjarnason reminded members that in March 2006 the United States announced its decision to withdraw its forces from Iceland, as the country, allegedly, no longer faced any military threat. However, he went on to suggest that the Arctic region is undergoing a transition which will have an impact on political and economic stability, as well as on security in the region. Since Arctic waters provide Russia's Northern Fleet with the only way into the Atlantic Ocean, the region will remain one of strategic interest. As well, he continued, climate change might well lead to the opening of the Northeast Passage to the Pacific Ocean and to further exploitation of natural resources. The region's role as an energy deposit for the United States and Europe will only enhance its strategic importance. It was therefore important, he went on to argue, that there be enhanced cooperation within NATO and with regional partners in ensuring the stability of the region.

Following discussion, the Committee then went on to hear from Dr. Brenda Shaffer, Belfer Center For Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, and Senior Lecturer, University of Haifa. She spoke on *Islam in the Caucasus*. Dr. Shaffer argued that the questions about the state of religion or national values that one usually asks when studying a Muslim country are important for understanding the country's people but not its policies. She went on to suggest that in Central Asia and the Caucasus, geopolitics matter more than identity. Dr. Shaffer concluded that in order to understand

the region better, analysts in the West should look at geography, GDP and the size of militaries, rather than at cultural and religious identities.

Following the presentation by Dr. Shaffer the Committee went on to consider its various draft reports and resolutions.

## **6 OCTOBER 2007**

### **Science and Technology Committee**

Along with consideration of its draft reports and resolutions, the Committee also heard from Össur Skarphedinnsson, Minister of Industry, Iceland. He spoke on the subject of *Energy Supply and Climate Change*. Mr. Skarphedinnsson provided a brief overview of the global issues regarding energy supplies and suggested that it was quite likely that the world's hydrocarbon resources would be depleted in the near future. Despite vast reserves in the Arctic region, these too will run out one day. Therefore, the key challenge is to reduce our dependence on carbon-rich fuels. Mr. Skarphedinnsson concluded by suggesting that the best way forward was through better energy efficiency, innovations and technical breakthroughs that will lead to the use of more diverse and renewable energy sources, and the development of new technologies related to carbon sequestration.

During the ensuing discussion, Senator Nolin (Canada) asked about the relative efficiencies of geothermal and traditional technologies. Mr. Skarphedinnsson told members that Iceland is saving much by harnessing its geothermal energy sources, thus making the cost of energy considerably lower than in other countries.

## **6-7 OCTOBER 2007**

### **Political Committee**

In her introduction to the consideration of resolutions Senator Andreychuk (Canada), stressed that today's security risks emanate from different sources and that this requires that NATO continue its transformation. She said it was important that there be more and better coordination with member states as well as with other actors, particularly the UN, the EU and partner countries. She also recommended enhancing a further development of a more structured dialogue and coordination between NATO and non-governmental organizations.

The Committee also heard from Michael Rühle, Head of Policy Planning and Speech Writing Section, NATO International Staff. Mr. Rühle spoke on *A Nuclear Iran: Implications for the Non-Proliferation Regime, NATO's Nuclear Policy, and Missile Defence*. He suggested that a nuclear Iran would have serious consequences both for regional security and for the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) which would be put into question. He also suggested that close transatlantic cooperation was necessary to persuade Tehran to comply with the demands of the international community. Tough sanctions could persuade Iran to end its nuclear programme, but the key question was whether China and Russia would be willing to subordinate their economic interests and agree to a tougher policy towards Iran. He concluded his remarks by arguing that transatlantic unity remains a must and that it should guide the international community to seek new ways to provide global security.

Inter-alia the Committee also heard from Antonio Milososki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He spoke on *South-East European Security*. As well, Mr. Carne Ross, Founder and Director of Independent Diplomat, London, spoke on *Kosovo*. Professor Robert J. Art, Brandeis University, spoke on *A New Strategic Concept for NATO: Pros and Cons*.

**7 OCTOBER 2007**

**Economics and Security Committee**

Along with the consideration of its various draft reports, the Economics and Security Committee was also addressed by Thorsteinn Ingi Sigfusson, Professor of Physics at the Institute of Science, University of Iceland, and Director General of the Icelandic Innovation Centre. He spoke on *Energy Security: An Icelandic Point of View*. As well, the Committee heard from V.N. Balasubramanyam, Professor of Development Economics, Department of Economics, Lancaster University Management School. He spoke on *An Overview of India's Economic Development and Its Implications for the Global Economy*.

Professor Balasubramanyam, argued that India would very likely sustain its high growth rates and retain its status as the world's most populous democracy. He also went on to suggest that India would most likely surpass China and rank as the world's largest economy by 2030. The country's ascendance would have an impact on the developed world and would serve as a deterrent to any imperial ambitions of its Asian neighbours.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P.

Chair

Canadian NATO Parliamentary  
Association (NATO PA)

## Travel Costs

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ASSOCIATION</b>                           | Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association<br>(NATO PA)                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>ACTIVITY</b>                              | Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary<br>Assembly                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>DESTINATION</b>                           | Reykjavic, Iceland                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>DATES</b>                                 | October 5 – 9, 2007                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>DELEGATION</b>                            |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| SENATE                                       | Senator Raynell Adnreychuk, Senator Jane<br>Cordy, Senator Joseph A. Day, Senator<br>Percy Downe, Senator Pierre Claude Nolin                                                             |
| HOUSE OF COMMONS                             | Mr. Claude Bachand, M.P., Mr. Leon Benoit,<br>M.P., Mrs. Dawn Black, M.P.,<br>Mr. Daryl Kramp, M.P., Mrs. Cheryl Gallant,<br>M.P., Mr. Joseph McGuire, M.P. and Mr.<br>Anthony Rota, M.P. |
| STAFF                                        | Mr. Wolfgang Koerner<br>Mr. Denis Robert<br>Ms. Jodi Turner                                                                                                                               |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION</b>                        | <b>\$47,050.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>ACCOMMODATION</b>                         | <b>\$23,409.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>HOSPITALITY</b>                           | <b>\$0.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PER DIEMS</b>                             | <b>\$11,746.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>OFFICIAL GIFTS</b>                        | <b>\$0.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>MISCELLANEOUS /<br/>REGISTRATION FEES</b> | <b>\$26.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>\$82,231.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |



