

**Opening Comments  
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CHAIRMAN LUGAR, SENATOR BIDEN, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE, I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INVITATION TO COME AND SPEAK TO YOU THIS AFTERNOON. TODAY, I AM APPEARING BEFORE YOU AS THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, EUROPE; IN DOING SO, I WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CURRENT NATO ACTIVITIES. IN MY REMARKS, I WILL FOCUS ON NATO'S GREATEST CHALLENGES IN 2006, NAMELY THE EXPANSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE OR ISAF MISSION ACROSS THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONS OF AFGHANISTAN, AS WELL AS NATO'S EFFORTS TO BRING ITS PREMIER TRANSFORMATIONAL VEHICLE, THE NATO RESPONSE FORCE, TO FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY. WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH OF YOU A BRIEF SUMMARY OF NATO'S ONGOING MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS. THIS WILL PROVIDE YOU A REFERENCE AS WE DISCUSS THESE TOPICS.

NATO IS RAPIDLY TRANSFORMING. AT THE PRAGUE SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER 2002, NATO MEMBER NATIONS SIGNALLED THEIR RECOGNITION OF THE CHANGING SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND THE NEED TO MAKE MAJOR SHIFTS IN BOTH ORGANIZATION AND ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES. NATO IS MAKING PROGRESS AND IS PERHAPS IN THE MIDST OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSFORMATION IN ITS HISTORY.

WHILE NATO HAS ACHIEVED SOME NOTABLE SUCCESS SINCE 2002 IN TRANSFORMING ITS MILITARY STRUCTURE, THE ALLIANCE FINDS ITSELF AT THE STRATEGIC CROSSROADS BETWEEN CENTURIES. NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE, NOW TOTALLING 26, INCREASINGLY DISPLAY GREATER POLITICAL WILL TO UNDERTAKE MISSIONS AT GREAT STRATEGIC DISTANCES (AFGANISTAN, IRAQ AND EVEN AFRICA). THIS COLLECTIVE WILL SIGNALS THAT NATO IS BECOMING MORE PROACTIVE THAN REACTIVE, MORE EXPEDITIONARY THAN STATIC, AND MORE DIVERSE IN ITS CAPABILITIES. WHILE THIS EMERGENT NATO IS TO BE CELEBRATED, ENCOURAGED, AND SUPPORTED, ONE CANNOT FAIL TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE POLITICAL WILL TO DO MORE IS, AS YET,

NOT ACCOMPANIED BY AN EQUAL POLITICAL WILL TO RESOURCE—  
IN MEN, MONEY, AND MATERIAL—THIS NEW FOUND APPETITE.

DESPITE NON BINDING AGREEMENTS AT THE PRAGUE  
SUMMIT OF 2002 THAT NATIONS SHOULD STRIVE TO MAINTAIN  
THEIR DEFENSE BUDGETS AT NO LESS THAN 2% OF THEIR  
RESPECTIVE GDP, TODAY ONLY SEVEN NATIONS HAVE ACHIEVED  
THIS GOAL. SIMILARLY, IN TERMS OF MANPOWER PLEDGES OF  
NATIONS FOR SUPPORT TO HEADQUARTERS AND OPERATIONS,  
WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT MEETING OUR GOALS. FINALLY OUR  
EFFORTS TO PROCURE AGREED UPON STRATEGIC CAPABILITIES  
(I.E. STRAT LIFT, ALLIANCE GROUND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM,  
COMPUTER INFO SYSTEM) HAVE NOT BEEN FUNDED ADEQUATELY  
THEREBY PERPETUATING CRITICAL SHORTFALLS IN THE ALLIANCE.

ENCOURAGINGLY, THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED MUNICH  
SECURITY CONFERENCE LENT GREAT SUPPORT TO THE PRIMACY  
OF NATO AS THE PREMIER VENUE FOR TRANSATLANTIC  
DISCUSSIONS AND FUTURE ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO ALL  
SECURITY ISSUES. CHANCELLOR MERCKEL'S ELOQUENT SPEECH

AT THE CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY, 4 FEB, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE CONFERENCE'S REAFFIRMATION OF NATO'S ENDURING VALUE TO OUR TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

MR CHAIRMAN, SENATOR BIDEN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, IT IS CLEAR THAT PUBLICS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE ALLIANCE REPRESENTED DURING THE COLD WAR. WE WERE UNITED, DESPITE OCCASIONAL "FAMILY DISAGREEMENTS", AROUND THE CENTRAL "ANCHOR POINT" OF PREVAILING OVER THE THREAT POSED BY THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. REGRETTABLY, I DOUBT THAT OUR PUBLICS TODAY, ON EITHER SIDE OF THE OCEAN, UNDERSTAND THE NEED, NATURE, AND PURPOSE OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE POST COLD WAR ERA OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY.

AS WE HEAD TOWARDS THE NATO SUMMIT OF NOVEMBER 2006 IN RIGA, LATVIA, NATO WILL STRIVE TO REDEFINE ITSELF IN A WORLD FACING ASYMETRIC CHALLENGES POSED BY NON STATE ACTORS, EMERGING THREATS TO ENERGY SUPPLY AND PERHAPS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES, AND A REQUIREMENT FOR MORE

PROACTIVE ACTIVITIES (SECURITY, STABILITY, & RECONSTRUCTION) TO DETER FUTURE CRISES FROM DEVELOPING—ALL OF WHICH INCLUDE THE MANY FACETS OF TERRORISM, AND ALL OF WHICH WILL DEFINE NATO'S ACTIVITIES IN 2006 AND BEYOND. NATO SECRETARY GENERAL DE HOOP SCHEFFER IS OUTLINING AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR THIS YEAR, WHICH WILL INCLUDE NEW AND REVITALIZED PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON THE NATO-RUSSIA AND NATO-UKRAINE RELATIONSHIPS; POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER NATO ENLARGEMENT IN THE FUTURE; AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COLLECTIVE CAPABILITIES FOR NATO'S USE.

FROM AN OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT, NATO IS EXPERIENCING ONE OF THE BUSIEST TIMES IN ITS HISTORY, WITH OVER 28,000 NATO AND NON-NATO TROOPS FROM 42 NATIONS SERVING UNDER THE NATO FLAG. WE ARE CONDUCTING OPERATIONS ON THREE CONTINENTS, AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS OPERATIONS TEMPO WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN 2006.

IN IRAQ, NATO HAS DEPLOYED A SUCCESSFUL TRAINING MISSION TO BAGHDAD TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH SECURITY AND STABILITY. NATO'S IN-COUNTRY STAFF OFFICER MISSION COMPLEMENTS THE WORK OF THE U.S.-LED MULTI-NATIONAL SECURITY TRANSITION COMMAND-IRAQ (MNSTC-I) TO TRAIN IRAQI SECURITY FORCES. IN SEPTEMBER 2005, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NATO TRAINING MISSION, IRAQ OPENED ITS NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY. NATO HAS ALSO PROVIDED NUMEROUS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR IRAQI OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN LEADERS IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ACROSS EUROPE AND COORDINATED THE ACQUISITION AND DELIVERY OF DONATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM NATO NATIONS TO THE IRAQI SECURITY FORCES.

IN AFRICA, AS I TESTIFIED BEFORE YOU LAST SEPTEMBER, NATO AND THE EUROPEAN UNION JOINTLY RESPONDED TO AN AFRICAN UNION (AU) REQUEST TO AIRLIFT FORCES FOR THE AU MISSION IN SUDAN (DARFUR) FROM ACROSS AFRICA. NATO GENERATED AND COORDINATED THE MAJORITY OF AIRLIFT, PROVIDED PERSONNEL TO ASSIST WITH STAFF CAPACITY

BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN KEY AU HEADQUARTERS AND DEPLOYED TRAINING TEAMS TO WORK WITH THEIR AU COUNTERPARTS. NATO'S SUPPORT IS COMMITTED UNTIL MAY 2006. A NATO / AU STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IS DEVELOPING, AND EXTENSIONS OR EXPANSION OF NATO SUPPORT BEYOND MAY 2006, IF REQUESTED BY THE AU, MAY BE FORTHCOMING.

CLOSER TO EUROPE, NATO'S ONLY ARTICLE V OPERATION, OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR (OAE), CONTINUES NOT ONLY TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, BUT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-NATO "PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE" AND "MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE" NATIONS TO ENHANCE THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND INTEROPERABILITY. IN 2006, RUSSIAN VESSELS WILL DEPLOY TO OAE, WITH UKRAINIAN VESSELS ANTICIPATED IN 2007. FORMAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE COMMENCED ON THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF ALGERIAN, ISRAELI, MOROCCAN AND GEORGIAN PARTICIPATION AS WELL.

ON MAINLAND EUROPE, WE RECENTLY OBSERVED THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE BALKANS. THROUGH ITS SECURITY SECTOR REFORM INITIATIVES, NATO HAS SUCCESSFULLY SET THE CONDITIONS IN THE REGION FOR THE PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRESS TOWARD POLITICALLY SUBORDINATE AND REFORMED MILITARIES. WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION, POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL INCENTIVES LINKED TO STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR HAVE ENCOURAGED BALKAN STATES TO RECOGNIZE THE BENEFITS OF CLOSER INTEGRATION WITH THE EU AND NATO AND LED TO A CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THE CAPTURE OF PERSONS INDICTED FOR WAR CRIMES. HOWEVER, MORE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE IN THIS REGION.

NATO'S FORCES IN KOSOVO ARE UNDERGOING A TRANSITION TO A LIGHTER, MORE MOBILE AND DEPLOYABLE STRUCTURE THAT EXPLOITS TECHNOLOGY AND A MORE AGILE AND BETTER TRAINED FORCE TO MANAGE THE SECURITY SITUATION. AS THE KOSOVO STATUS TALKS DEVELOP OVER THE COMING MONTHS AND CONSENSUS IS HOPEFULLY REACHED BETWEEN ETHNIC KOSOVAR

ALBANIAN AND SERBIAN COMMUNITIES, NATO SHOULD BE POSTURED TO REDUCE FORCE LEVELS SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PROVINCE AND IN THE BALKANS IN GENERAL.

NATO'S MOST AMBITIOUS OPERATION, THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE (ISAF), CURRENTLY ENCOMPASSES HALF OF THE TERRITORIAL LANDMASS OF AFGHANISTAN AND WILL EXPAND INTO THE SOUTH AND THEN THE EAST IN 2006. AS NATO ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY, ITS FORCE LEVELS WILL ULTIMATELY SURPASS THE COALITION'S, AND WILL CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE LARGEST OPERATIONS IN ALLIANCE HISTORY—FROM 9,000 TROOPS AT PRESENT TO 25,000 WHEN EXPANSION IS COMPLETE. IT IS ENVISIONED THAT WHEN EXPANSION IS COMPLETE, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE THE LARGEST TROOP-CONTRIBUTING NATION TO THIS MISSION.

IN ISAF, NATO HAS BUILT ON THE COALITION CONCEPT OF PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS AND SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN IN ITS PRESIDENTIAL, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

ELECTIONS. EXPANSION WILL PRESENT NATO WITH MANY NEW AND COMPLEX CHALLENGES, BUT NATO AND U.S. COALITION COMMANDERS ARE WORKING VERY CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT THE TRANSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY IS EFFECTIVE AND CONTINUES TO DEVELOP CREDIBLE, PROFESSIONAL AND LEGITIMATE AFGHAN POLITICAL AND SECURITY STRUCTURES.

FINALLY, THROUGH ITS PRIMARY TRANSFORMATIONAL VEHICLE – THE NATO RESPONSE FORCE (NRF) – THE ALLIANCE ATTEMPTS TO MEET EMERGING CRISES ACROSS THE FULL SPECTRUM OF MILITARY MISSIONS, AT STRATEGIC DISTANCE, AND IN THE MOST CHALLENGING OF ENVIRONMENTS. MOST RECENTLY, AND DUE TO ITS AGILITY, FLEXIBILITY, AND EXPEDITIONARY NATURE, THE NRF WAS SELECTED TO ASSIST IN THE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS FOR BOTH HURRICANE KATRINA AND IN THE WAKE OF THE PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE.

BUT THE NRF FACES CHALLENGES. FORCE GENERATION EFFORTS FOR FUTURE NRF ROTATIONS ARE NOT PRODUCING A COMPLETE AND BALANCED FORCE, WHICH IS A CAUSE FOR

CONCERN. THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THIS PROBLEM, I BELIEVE, IS THAT NATO HAS NOT REFORMED ITS 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY FUNDING MECHANISMS THAT REQUIRE NATIONS TO PAY ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINMENT OF THEIR DEPLOYED FORCES. WE HAVE YET TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FULL IMPACT OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY EXPEDITIONARY NATURE OF NATO OPERATIONS. NATO'S FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WERE APPROPRIATE WHEN FORCES DID NOT DEPLOY OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, SUCH AS DURING THE COLD WAR. HOWEVER, WITH OPERATIONS BEING CONDUCTED TODAY AT STRATEGIC DISTANCES, OUR CURRENT APPROACH TO RESOURCING OUR OPERATIONS ACTUALLY ACTS AS A DISINCENTIVE TO NATIONS CONTRIBUTING FORCES FOR DEPLOYMENTS. WHILE NATO HAS MADE PROGRESS IN APPROVING REVISED FUNDING GUIDELINES TO FUND CRITICALLY NEEDED STRATEGIC LIFT IN SUPPORT OF THIS YEAR'S NRF CERTIFICATION EXERCISE, SCHEDULED FOR JUNE IN CAPE VERDE, AS WELL AS THE OPERATIONAL AND STRATEGIC RESERVE FORCES, MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. AS WE SPEAK TODAY, FOC FOR THE NRF BY OCTOBER IS AT RISK.

AS I CONCLUDE THESE OPENING REMARKS, I'D LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH A FINAL THOUGHT: TODAY, THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SECURITY LINK EMBODIED BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION IS VIABLE, VITAL, AND VIBRANT. THE PROPOSALS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONS IN 2006, IF ADOPTED, WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD HELPING NATO ENHANCE ITS INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ROLE IN PROVIDING COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND STRATEGIC STABILITY. NATO HAS BEEN, AND NEEDS TO REMAIN, A GREAT ALLIANCE: GREAT ALLIANCES SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO DO GREAT THINGS. IT IS POSSIBLE, EVEN PROBABLE IN MY VIEW, THAT NATO'S MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS AND MOST IMPORTANT MISSIONS ARE STILL IN ITS FUTURE.