

Secret Banff Meeting of CEOs and the Defense Establishment : Militarization and the Deconstruction of North America

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

Global Research, September 19, 2006
19 September 2006

Region: [Canada](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

Cabinet ministers, top military brass together with North America's top corporate executives mingle in the plush surroundings of the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel.

This secret venue on "Continental Prosperity in the New Security Environment" focused on "Deep Integration," which largely consists in flushing national sovereignty in favor of "Fortress North America".

According to the draft program (see below), Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld traveled to Banff, Alberta to deliver the keynote address on "military to military cooperation". Canada's Minister of Public Security Stockwell Day focused his address on issues of North American public security.

Top brass from the US and Canada were in attendance. Canada's Minister of Defense Gordon O'Connor was present together with Chief of Defense Staff, General Rick Helliier.

There was, however, no confirmation that Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper attended the meetings.

On the US side, several of Rumsfeld's top policy advisers were present alongside a handful of researchers and consultants.

The commander of US NorthCom Admiral Tim Keating was also in attendance with several of his senior staff members. Keating is also Commander of NORAD, which is slated to be merged with US NorthCom.

Deep Integration

"Deep Integration" was first enunciated by "The Independent Task Force for North America", led on the Canadian side by former Liberal deputy prime minister, John Manley together with Tom Aquino, president of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives. The task force led by US, Canadian and Mexican officials was sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

"D'Aquino and his partners in a corporate task force, former deputy prime minister John Manley and former finance minister Michael Wilson, tell us that by integrating ever more into the U.S. we will somehow guarantee our prosperity, creating fortress North America to compete with China, Europe, and

other competitors.” ([Murray Dobbin, April 2005](#))

In 2005, Manley’s task force released its [“Trinational Call for a North American Economic and Security Community by 2010”](#).

Both Aquino and Manley are participants in the Banff venue, which essentially constitutes a follow-up to the CFR sponsored initiative. Another central theme of the Banff conference is the integration of military command structures, which could eventually lead to the scrapping of NORAD and the integration of Canada into US Northern Command. ([Chossudovsky, November 2004](#))

The Banff venue was co-chaired by George Shultz, a staunch Republican, former Secretary of State to President Ronald Reagan who later became president and director of Bechtel corporation.



George Shultz

Top execs from the military-industrial complex and the oil companies were present including Lockheed Martin, Chevron, Mexico’s PEMEX and Suncor Energy.

Top officials and policy analysts from the military’s research labs and think tanks including Livermore were invited to integrate several of the specialized panels.

The meetings focused on the interrelationship between North American defense systems, militarization, national security, borders, immigration, military production and the control over North America’s energy reserves.

The venue had more to do with profit driven militarization than “continental prosperity” .

No journalists, no press releases, no commentary which might inform public opinion, a total media blackout: The program of this venue, which was a carefully guarded State secret was first revealed by Canadian author and politician [Mel Hurtig on an internet posting](#) :

Thought you would like to see this. They’re at it again. The sellouts, the usual suspects.

September 12th to 14th, at the Banff Springs Hotel, a conference on North American Integration.

Among the long list of those who will be there are Perrin Beatty, Peter Lougheed, Thomas d’Aquino, Stockwell Day, Wendy Dobson, Roger Gibbins, John Manley, Anne McLellan, Gordon O’Connor, James Schlesinger, Donald Rumsfeld, George Shultz and a long list of others.

Among the topics: “A Vision for North America”, “A North American Energy Strategy”, “Demographic and Social Dimensions of North American Integration”, “Opportunities for Security Cooperation”.

Many prominent high level U.S. government people will be there.

Lots of military. Lots of Deputy Ministers.

Lock up your valuables. Hide your children.

[Mel Hurtig](#)

Erratum: a previous version of this text indicated the presence of Five Star Generals at the meeting. This statement was incorrect. Admiral T. Keating and General Rick Hillier are not Five Star Generals.

ANNEX

The list of participants and the draft program dated respectively August 31st and September 1st, were sent out on email lists. [we were not able to verify the accuracy of this draft program and whether all the confirmed participants attended the venue]

NORTH AMERICAN FORUM CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS (Internal Document, Not for Public Release)

Report dated August 31, 2006

Forum Co-Chairs:

Dr. Pedro Aspe

Hon. Peter Lougheed

Hon. George Shultz

Canadian Participants

Col. Peter Atkinson Special Advisor to Chief of Defence, Staff

Hon. Perrin Beatty Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

Mr. Peter M. Boehm Assistant Deputy Minister, North America Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Mr. Thomas d'Aquino, Canadian Council of Chief Executives

Hon. Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, Government of Canada

Dr. Wendy Dobson The Institute for International Business

Mr. N. Murray Edwards Edco Financial Holdings Ltd.

Mr. Ward Elcock, Deputy Minister of National Defence

Mr. Bill Elliott Associate Deputy Minister, Public Safety

Dr. John English The Cdn Centre for International Governance Innovation

Mr. Brian Felesky Felesky Flynn LLP

Mr. Richard L. George, Suncor Energy Inc.

Dr. Roger Gibbins Canada West Foundation

Rear Adm Roger Girouard, Commander Joint Task Force Pacific, Cdn Forces

Major Gen Daniel Gosselin, Director General, International Security Policy

Mr. James K. Gray Canada West Foundation Mr. Fred Green Canadian Pacific Railway

Mr. V. Peter Harder Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Paul J. Hill Harvard Developments Inc.

General Rick Hillier Chief of the Defence Staff

Mr. Pierre Marc Johnston Heenan Blaikie

Mr. James Kinnear Pengrowth Corporation

Mr. Harold N. Kvisle TransCanada Corporation

Hon. John P. Manley, McCarthy, Tetrault LLP

Mr. Ron Mannix, Coril Holdings Ltd.

Mr. Ron Mathison, Matco Investments

Hon. Anne McLellan, Senior Counsel, Bennett Jones

Hon. Greg Melchin, Minister of Energy, Government of Alberta

Ms. Sharon Murphy, Chevron Canada

Ms. Sheila O'Brien, President, Corporate Director, Belvedere Investments

Hon. Gordon O'Connor, Minister of Defense, Government of Canada

Mr. Berel Roda, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict

Mr. Gordon Smith, Chairman, The International Development Research Centre

American Participants

Ms. Deborah Bolton, Political Advisor to Commander, US Northcom

Mr. Ron T. Covais, President, The Americas, Lockheed Martin Corporation

Sec. Kenneth W. Dam, Max Pam Professor Emeritus of American & Foreign Law and Senior Lecturer, University of Chicago Law School

Mr. Dan Fisk Senior Director, Western Hemisphere, National Security Council

Sec. Ryan Henry Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Ms. Carla A. Hills, Chairman & CEO, Hills & Co.

Ms. Caryn Hollis DASD (Acting) Western Hemisphere Affairs

Mr. Bill Irwin Manager – International Government Affairs; Policy, Government and Public Affairs, Chevron Corporation

Mr. Robert G. James President, Enterprise Asset Management Inc.

Admiral Tim Keating Commander, US Northern Command

Mr. Floyd Kvamme Chair, President's Council of Advisors on Science & Technology; Director, Centre for Global Security Res.

Dr. Ronald F. Lehman II, Director, Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Mr. William W. McIlhenny Policy Planning Council for Western Hemisphere Affairs

Dr. Peter McPherson President, National Association of State Universities & Land-Grant Colleges

Ms. Doris Meissner Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute

Dr. George Miller Director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Mr. George Nethercutt Chairman, US Section of the Permanent Joint Board on Defense, US – Canada (Security)

Mary Anastasia O'Grady, Journalist for Wall Street Journal (Area Specialist)

Dr. Robert A. Pastor Director, Center for North American Studies, American University, Washington, DC

Dr. William Perry Co-Director, Preventive Defense Project

Lt. Gen. Gene Renuart, USAF Senior Military Assist. to Sec. Rumsfeld

Mr. Eric Ruff, Department of Defense Press Secretary

Sec. Donald R. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, US Department of Defense

Dr. James Schlesinger, Former Sec. Of Energy & Defense

Mr. William Schneider President, International Planning Services

Sec. Clay Sell Deputy Secretary of Energy, US Dept. of Energy

Dr. Thomas A. Shannon Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere A

Dr. David G. Victor Director, Program on Energy & Sustainable Development, Center for Environmental Science & Policy

Maj. Gen. Mark A Volcheff Director, Plans, Policy & Strategy, NORAD-NORTHCOM

Ms. Jane Wales President & CEO, World Affairs Council of Northern California

Mr. R. James Woolsey Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton

Mexican Participants:

Emb Andrés Rozental (Mexican Coordinator) – Mexican Council on Foreign Relations

Silvia Hernández Former Senator and Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on North America

Mario Molina 1995 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Fernando Chico Pardo CEO, Promecap

Juan Gallardo CEO, Grupo GEUSA

Gerónimo Gutiérrez Deputy Foreign Minister for North America

Luis de la Calle Consultant. Former Deputy Minister of Economy

Agustín Barrios Gómez Solutions Abroad

Vinicio Suro PEMEX

Eduardo Medina Mora Secretary of Public Security

Carlos Heredia State Government of Michoacán

Jaime Zabłudowsky Consultant. Former trade negotiator

Manuel Arango CEO, Grupo Concord

Jorge Santibañez President, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

Luis Rubio CIDAC

Mónica Serrano El Colegio de México, Señor Fellow Oxford University

Arturo Sarukhan Coordinator of Int'l Affairs, Campaign of Felipe Calderon

Juan Camilo Mouriño General Coordinator of President Elect's transition team

Ernesto Cordero Coordinator for Public Policy Issues

Ambassadors/Consul

General: Mr. Carlos de Icaza, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States

Mr. Gaëtan Lavertu Ambassador of Canada to Mexico

Ms. Maria Teresa Garcia Segovia de Madero, Ambassador of Mexico to Canada

Mr. Thomas Huffaker U.S. Consul General in Calgary (on DOD's list)

Mr. John Dickson Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy in Ottawa (representing Ambassador of US to Canada)

Mr. Colin Robertson Minister & Head, Washington Advocacy Secretariat, (representing Ambassador of Canada to US)

Draft Detailed September 1, 2006 Agenda Internal Document

North American Forum

Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel Banff, Alberta September 12-14, 2006

Under the Joint Chairmanship of:

The Hon. George Shultz, Former U.S. Secretary of State,

The Hon. Pedro Aspe, Former Finance Minister of Mexico,

The Hon. Peter Lougheed, Former Premier of Alberta

Continental Prosperity in the New Security Environment

Session I: Opening comments by Messrs. Aspe, Lougheed and Schultz

Session II: A Vision for North America: Issues and Options

Session III: Toward a North American Energy Strategy

Session IV: Opportunities for Security Cooperation in North America (Parts I and II)

Session V: Demographic and Social Dimensions of North American Integration

Session VI: Border Infrastructure and Continental Prosperity

Session VII: Roundtable Conversation with the Co-Chairs

Draft September 1, 2006 Agenda

North American Forum

The Fairmont Banff Springs Banff, Alberta, Canada September 12-14, 2006

Under the Joint Chairmanship of:

The Hon. George Shultz, Former U.S. Secretary of State

The Hon. Pedro Aspe, Former Finance Minister of Mexico

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Continental Prosperity in the New Security Environment

Tuesday, September 12th

3:00 to Advance Registration 4:30 pm Location: Heritage Hall

5:00 pm Registration Location: Oval Room

5:45 pm Opening and Welcoming Reception Location: Conservatory in the Cascade Ballroom

6:45 pm Dinner & Keynote Address Location: Cascade Ballroom

8:00 pm Keynote Address – “Energy and Environment: a vision for North America” Dr. Mario Molina, 1995 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

Wednesday, September 13th

7:30 am Continental Breakfast & Registration Location: Alhambra Room

8:15 am Keynote Address – Hon. Greg Melchin, Minister of Energy, Government of Alberta Q & A 8:45 – 9:00 a.m.

9:00 am SESSION I: OPENING COMMENTS BY MESSRS. SHULTZ, ASPE AND LOUGHEED Location: Alhambra Room

SESSION II: A VISION FOR NORTH AMERICA: ISSUES & OPTIONS

Location: Alhambra Room 9:30 am PANEL:

Moderator: Dr. Thomas A. Shannon, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Panelists: Robert Pastor, Director, Center for North American Studies, American University Roger Gibbins, President & CEO, Canada West Foundation Andrés Rozental, Mexican Council on Foreign Relations

10:05 am ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

10:45 am Break

SESSION III: TOWARD A NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY STRATEGY Location: Alhambra Room

11:05 am REMARKS: Secretary Clay Sell, Deputy Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy

11:25 am PANEL: Moderator: N. Murray Edwards, Vice Chairman, Canadian Natural Resources Limited Panelists: Richard George, President & CEO, Suncor Energy Inc. David Victor, Director, Program on Energy & Sustainable Development, Center for Environmental Science & Policy Vinicio Suro, Planning & Evaluation Subdirector, PEMEX

12 noon ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

12:45 pm Break

1:00 pm Lunch Location: Cascade Ballroom

1:30 pm Keynote Address: Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, US Department of Defense

SESSION IV: OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN NORTH AMERICA - Military-to-military cooperation Location: Alhambra Room

2:30 pm PANEL: Moderator: William J. Perry, former US Secretary of Defense Panelists: Admiral Tim Keating, Commander NORAD/USNORTHCOM Major General Daniel Gosselin, Director General, International Security Policy, Gerónimo Gutiérrez, Undersecretary for North America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

3:05 pm ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

4:00 pm Break

SESSION IV: OPPORTUNITIES FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IN NORTH AMERICA CONTINUED Location: Alhambra Room

4:15 pm PANEL: Moderator: William Schneider, President, International Planning Services Panelists: Ward Elcock, Deputy Minister of National Defence Eduardo Medina-Mora, Secretary of Public Safety Ryan Henry, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

4:50 pm ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5:45 pm Wrap-up of daytime sessions

6:30 pm Reception Location: Conservatory in the Cascade Ballroom

7:00 pm Dinner & Keynote Address Location: Cascade Ballroom

8:10 pm Keynote Address - The Hon. Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, Government of Canada

Thursday, September 14th

7:00 am Breakfast Location: Alhambra Room

7:15 am Keynote Address - Floyd Kvamme, Chairman, President's Council of Advisors on Science & Technology Q & A - 7:40 to 8:00 a.m.

SESSION V: DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF NORTH AMERICAN INTEGRATION Location: Alhambra Room

8:00 am PANEL: Moderator: Andrés Rozental, Mexican Council on Foreign Relations Panelists : Dr. Wendy Dobson, the Institute for International Business Carlos Heredia, Chief International Affairs Advisor to the Governor of the State of Michoacán in Mexico Doris Meissner, Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute

8:35 am ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

9:30 am Break

SESSION VI: BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONTINENTAL PROSPERITY Location: Alhambra Room

9:45 am PANEL: Moderator: Hon. John P. Manley, McCarthy Tetrault LLP Panelists: Thomas d'Aquino, Canadian Council of Chief Executives Carla Hills, Chairman & CEO, Hills & Co. Luis de la Calle, Consultor

10:20 am ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

11:00 am SESSION VII: ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATION WITH THE CO-CHAIRS Location: Alhambra Room Moderator: Jane Wales, President and CEO, World Affairs Council of Northern California Presenters: George Shultz, Co-Chair, North American Forum Peter Loughheed, Co-Chair, North American Forum Pedro Aspe, Co-Chair, North American Forum

12:00 pm Adjourn

12:30 pm Informal lunch Location: Alhambra Room

9:45 am PANEL: Moderator: Hon. John P. Manley, McCarthy Tetrault LLP Panelists: Thomas d'Aquino, Canadian Council of Chief Executives Carla Hills, Chairman & CEO, Hills & Co. Luis de la Calle, Consultor

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Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has taught as visiting professor in Western Europe, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Latin

America. He has served as economic adviser to governments of developing countries and has acted as a consultant for several international organizations. He is the author of 13 books. He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at crgeditor@yahoo.com

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