

Atlantic Partnership Spring Newsletter 2006



Atlantic Partnership Editorial

CLIMBING BACK

When two climbers roped together fall on a rock face, it's likely to be terminal. For a while that seemed on the cards for American and Europe at the depths of the crisis over Iraq, despite all the common interests and historic bonds which have kept them together for a century and more.

Memories are short and we tend to put out of our minds how close we came to disaster. Europe was split down the middle: Old Europe and New Europe. France and Germany seemed minded to drift off into a separate orbit. The United States was on virtual no-speaks with both, and close to writing off Europe altogether. Public opinion on both sides of the Atlantic was in truculent mood – remember Freedom Fries? - and anti-Americanism rampant in Europe.

We are not out of the woods yet. Echoes of the split over Iraq are still reverberating in the growing European clamour for Guantanamo to be closed and the resentment over

renditions. On each side of the Atlantic, there is a feeling that the other side is in trouble. Europeans see President Bush's standing in the opinion polls plummeting and wonder what it presages for the mid-term elections. A change of control in House or Senate could spell paralysis for the remainder of President Bush's Administration. Americans for their part see a series of political crises in Western Europe – scandal in France, the loss of a key American ally in Signor Berlusconi, and Tony Blair increasingly sabotaged by a divided and fractious Labour Party. Only Chancellor Merkel in Germany looks stable. In the circumstances the Americans cannot be expecting much by way of decisive leadership from Europe.

All that said, our two climbers have scrambled back on to a ledge and re-established a firmer footing for the Atlantic Partnership. It helps that the US economy remains remarkably strong and European economies appear to be on the recovery path, though there are unexploded bombs in the path of both in terms of budget and trade deficits, high personal debt and a hint of returning inflation. NATO is taking on a military role in Afghanistan which few would have thought possible a year or two ago. A US/European effort is bringing a cease-fire in Darfur closer. There is a joint US/European policy for ratcheting up pressure on Iran to abandon its presumed nuclear weapons programme. That unity may not hold if Iran remains totally recalcitrant, leading the US to tilt towards a military option, hard as it is to see what that could be without damaging US and Western interests generally at least as much as Iran. But for now the cooperation is solid and well-articulated.

Still, it's more a case of problems being capped rather than resolved. The climbers need to rope up and resume their ascent to tackle the unavoidable dilemmas ahead. The key issues are coordination on currencies: breaking the *impasse* in the Doha Round: formulating a common approach to energy: agreeing on how to handle Russia's renewed muscularity and assertiveness: helping find something better than unilateral partition for the Palestinians – to name a few. The Atlantic Alliance needs to identify a shared agenda and move together to tackle it. That will do most to restore solidity and substance to the relationship and recreate the sense that America and Europe can achieve more together than alone.

It's easy to sit at one's desk and write prescriptions and much tougher to effect cures. The repair job can't all be left to governments alone to sort out. Organisations like Atlantic

Partnership need to make their voice heard and use their influence to advance the rebuilding of the relationship and put the climbers back on the summit path. Fortunately there are many more besides us. But we must all do more to get our voices heard.

Charles Powell

ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

EVENTS WINTER/SPRING 2005 & 2006

Events have included:

- Breakfast with **John Bolton**, US Representative to the UN, in New York
- Breakfast with **General Colin Powell** in London
- Breakfast with **Paul Volcker**, as keynote speaker, and **General Brent Scowcroft**, as host, in New York
- Breakfast with **M. Jean-Claude Trichet**, President of the European Central Bank, in London
- Breakfast with **US Ambassador Robert Tuttle** in London
- Breakfast with **Rt Hon Michael Howard** in New York
- Young Leaders Breakfast with **HE Sir Emyr Jones Parry**, UK Ambassador to the UN, in New York
- Breakfast with **Sir Jeremy Greenstock**, former British Ambassador to the UN, in New York
- Breakfast with **Lord Goldsmith**, UK Attorney General, in London
- Breakfast with **Robert Zoellick**, Deputy Secretary of State, in London. A US Department of State press release was issued May 15, 2006:
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/66270.htm>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following events are planned for the summer/fall 2006.

- Fall Conference on French – US and German - US relations in Washington
- Breakfast with **Michael Howard** in Berlin, 20th June 2006

We are in the process of scheduling many other meetings and shall keep you informed as soon as they are confirmed.

ATLANTIC PARTNERHIP

- Since February 2006 we have the pleasure of working with **Vanessa Arkell** who is our new Atlantic Partnership Director in London. She replaces Catherine Fall.

- The US Department of State issued the following comments in its May 15th press release regarding Mr. Robert Zoellick's travels:

During his visit to London May 16-17, Zoellick (...) will participate in a breakfast roundtable of the Atlantic Partnership, and also meet with Conservative Leader David Cameron.

"The U.S. - UK relationship is a vital partnership, and we greatly value the UK's diplomatic, security, and humanitarian leadership," said Deputy Secretary Zoellick. "I was privileged to work closely earlier this month with UK Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn in Abuja, Nigeria, where the United States and the United Kingdom helped push forward the Darfur Peace Agreement. I look forward to good discussions with my UK colleagues on the critical implementation of the DPA, as well as on other security, economic, and diplomatic topics."

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/66270.htm>

ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP OPINION

We include in this section a variety of extracts of speeches and articles by our Atlantic Partnership panel, chairmen and patrons over the last few months. If you wish to research more articles, Atlantic Partnership's website www.atlanticpartnership.org contains links to articles all written by our panel, chairmen or patrons. It also contains copies of past newsletters, as well as relevant articles and speeches on the subject of transatlantic relations.

On NATO

Lord Robertson, Atlantic Partnership Patron, is interviewed by Stephen Sackur on "HardTalk" (BBC), March 6, 2006 on the subject of NATO. Question: "The conflict in Iraq led to major splits between NATO member governments, with Donald Rumsfeld famously differentiating between Old and New Europe. Can those divisions be overcome and does NATO have a future?"

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/hardtalk/4779276.stm>

On US-UK-EU RELATIONS

Niall Ferguson, Atlantic Partnership Panelist, publishes a piece on the special relationship following US Secretary of State's visit to the United Kingdom in the *Daily Telegraph* entitled, "We think we're special, but she is seeing someone else" Sunday April 2, 2006.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/04/02/do0202.xml&sSheet=/portal/2006/04/02/ixportal.html>

Matthew D'Ancona, Atlantic Partnership Panelist, examines Prime Minister Blair's comments on the European Union and the UK in the *Sunday Telegraph* February 5, 2006. His piece is entitled "Blair says adieu amid the dreaming spires."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2006/02/05/do0501.xml&sSheet=/portal/2006/02/05/ixportal.html>

On US-GERMAN RELATIONS

Karsten Voigt, Atlantic Partnership Patron, referring to Angela Merkel on the occasion of her first trip to the United States as Chancellor said, "Washington will be eager to see how she defines herself as chancellor, but so will we." "This is a new role for Germany, involvement in international issues when we are not the cause or the location of the crisis." January 11, 2006 article by Matthew Schofield in the *Knight Ridder Newspapers* (The Mercury News)

<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/world/13602566.htm>

On SUDAN

Senator Joseph Biden, Atlantic Partnership Patron, publishes a press release on April 27, 2006 in which he "calls for Special Envoy to Darfur, Sudan and Support for NATO Mission to help End Genocide."

<http://biden.senate.gov/newsroom/details.cfm?id=254826&>

On IRAN

Pierre Lellouche, Atlantic Partnership Vice Chairman and President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, wrote an article in *Le Figaro*, January 12, 2006 in which he compares President Ahmadinejad to Hitler. This article was co-signed by several UMP Members of Parliament.

http://www.uejf.org/uejf_detail.php?sid=&id_art=851&id_type=3

General Brent Scowcroft, Atlantic Partnership Trustee, writes an opinion piece in the *New Australian* on Iran, entitled, "Don't get belligerent about Iran" April 13, 2006.

On IRAQ

Karsten Voigt, Atlantic partnership Patron, is interviewed on RBB-Inforadio, March 20, 2006

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Infoservice/Presse/interviews/2006/060320-VoigtRBB-Irak.html>

General Brent Scowcroft, publishes an Op-Ed in the *Washington Post* entitled, "Focusing on Success' in Iraq" on January 16, 2005

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/15/AR2006011500417.html>

On THE EUROPEAN UNION

Dominique Moisi, Atlantic Partnership panelist, writes a piece entitled "'Economic patriotism' will be Europe's undoing," March 5, 2006 in the *Financial Times*.

Is "economic patriotism" - the expression coined by Dominique de Villepin, France's prime minister, and epitomised by the proposed merger of Gaz de France and Suez - a sign of hard-headed pragmatism gaining ground in Europe? Or is it an example of French schizophrenia towards globalisation, if not the European Union?

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/bb9b8492-ac72-11da-8226-0000779e2340.html>

On ENERGY

Daniel Yergin, Atlantic Partnership Panelist, presents a piece on "Ensuring Energy Security" in the March/April 2006 Foreign Affairs magazine. "Summary: The institutions and policies that were set up after the 1973 Arab oil embargo can no longer meet the needs of energy consumers or producers."

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20060301faessay85206/daniel-yergin/ensuring-energy-security.html>

On THE MIDDLE EAST

Dr. Henry Kissinger, AP Patron, publishes an Op-Ed entitled, “What’s Needed From Hamas (Steps in the Peace Process Must Match Conditions on the Ground)” February 27, 2006, in the *Washington Post*, following Hamas’ victory in the Palestinian territories.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/26/AR2006022601263.html>



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The Rt Hon Michael Howard QC MP

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The Hon Dr Henry Kissinger
General Colin Powell
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr
Rt Hon Sir John Major CH
Rt Hon Lord Gilbert
Rt Hon Lord Robertson
M Alain Juppe
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Herr Karsten Voigt
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Directors

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How to Contact Atlantic Partnership

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Or you can visit our website on: www.atlanticpartnership.org

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