

Success at Nato Summit!

--Nato accepted 7 new members at the Prague Summit on Friday. --

BACKGROUND:

Formed in 1949 to counter the threat of post-war Communist expansion as the Soviet Union sought to extend its influence in Europe, Nato - the North Atlantic Treaty Organization - is the world's biggest regional defense alliance.

It states its general aim as being to "safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization" of its members by promoting "stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area". Members agree that an armed attack against one shall be considered an attack against them all, and that they will come to the aid of each other. Originally consisting of 12 countries, Nato expanded to include Greece and Turkey in 1952 and West Germany in 1955. However, then, as now, the alliance was militarily dominated by the United States.

American dominance, combined with the inclusion in Nato of West Germany, was seen as a direct threat by the Soviet Union. In 1955 it created a counter-alliance called the Warsaw Pact, which dissolved after the break-up of the USSR in 1991. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland became the first former Warsaw Pact countries to gain Nato membership in 1999.

Throughout the 1990s, Nato took a series of steps to adjust its relationship with Moscow, which feared that the alliance would expand as far as Russia's borders. The Kremlin's supportive response to the 11 September attacks on targets in the United States led to a thaw in relations. This culminated with the establishment in May 2002 of the Nato-Russia Council in which Russia and Nato countries will have an equal role in decision-making on policy to counter terrorism and other security threats.

The post of secretary-general is held by a senior international statesman nominated by the member nations to chair the supreme decision-

making North Atlantic Council, as well as other key committees. **Lord**



Robertson was appointed in October 1999. Before that he served as British defense secretary. A Labor Party right-winger, he defended the nuclear deterrent during the

1980s, when the party was strongly affiliated to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). He also commanded wide respect among the British armed forces.

Nato was set up in the post-World War II atmosphere of anxiety, largely to block Soviet expansion into Europe. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and subsequent demise of the Warsaw Pact, therefore, left Nato with no obvious purpose. Since then Nato has used its defensive role to justify a more proactive approach to "out of area" activities - arguing that instability in any part of Europe would be a threat to its members.

Thus, at the end of 1995, for the first time ever, Nato organized a multinational Implementation Force (Ifor), under a United Nations mandate, to implement the military aspects of the Bosnian peace agreement.

In 1999 the alliance launched an 11-week campaign of air strikes against Yugoslavia involving more than 1,000 warplanes - the largest military operation ever undertaken by Nato, and the first time it had used force against a sovereign state without United Nations approval.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Nato embarked on a series of steps designed to build new relationships with former

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Warsaw Pact countries and particularly with Russia, which was profoundly suspicious of the alliance's plans to expand eastwards.

In 1994 Nato offered former Warsaw Pact members limited associations in the form of the Partnership for Peace program, allowing them to participate in information sharing, joint exercises and peacekeeping operations. But this simply appeared to confirm Russian fears that Nato posed a creeping threat to its security.

The Nato-Russia Permanent Joint Council was established in May 1997 to give Russia a consultative role in discussion of matters of mutual interest. While Moscow was given a voice, it rarely felt that it was really listened to. Russia's fears intensified further when in 1999 the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland became the first former Soviet bloc states to join Nato, bringing the alliance's borders 400 miles closer to the Russian frontier.



The September 11 attacks on targets in the US are widely seen as a pivotal moment for Nato. Secretary-General George Robertson invoked Article Five of the Nato constitution which says that an attack on one member is an attack on all. However, Washington treated this purely as a gesture and did not involve the Nato machine in the US-led international military campaign which followed. Secondly, Russia's supportive reaction following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon proved to be the catalyst for real signs of thaw in relations with Moscow.

After a flurry of diplomatic activity followed by several months of tough negotiations, the Nato-Russia Council was agreed to in May 2002. This body gives Russia an equal role with the Nato countries in decision-making on policy to counter terrorism and other security threats.

While this development has been hailed by some as the moment when Nato brought Russia in from the cold, many questions remain as to how the alliance will develop from here.

STORY:

A two-day NATO summit in Prague closed on Friday with a much to cheer, seven new members from former Eastern bloc states and a thawing of relations between Germany and the United States. A sense of relief was evident in Prague as the 19-nation military alliance wrapped up a hectic two days of intense negotiations dealing with some of the trickiest issues in the alliance's history.

On Friday, NATO sought to reassure Russia that the alliance's eastward expansion would pose no danger to it. During the historic summit, seven new members from the former communist Eastern Europe were approved by NATO after marathon negotiations in the country that for years lay behind the Iron Curtain. It said the former enemies were now allies facing a common threat.

To drive home that point, United States President George W. Bush met Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg later in the day to discuss Iraq and others issues dealing with NATO expansion, including the war on terrorism.

Earlier, the 19 NATO allies issued a statement firmly backing the U.S.-led effort to disarm Iraq and ensure that Saddam Hussein complied with U.N. resolutions to give up weapons of mass destruction. The statement, however, fell far short of committing NATO assets or forces to a U.S.-led military invasion.

In particular, France and Germany distanced themselves from some aspects of U.S. policy. French President Jacques Chirac minced

no words as he insisted at the summit that the UN should have the final say on Iraq.

Thursday's summit brought together German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and President Bush for the first time since Bush's visit to Berlin in May. German-American relations plunged to an all-time low following Schröder's unequivocal "no" to a war on Iraq during his September re-election campaign.

Though much was made of the handshake between Schröder and Bush on Thursday, and of their sharing a laugh together at the summit, the air between the two leaders could at best be described as coolly cordial. Schröder stuck to his line that German troops would not be a part of any military action in Iraq. However, he did signal that Germany was likely to accept U.S. requests for overflight rights and use of bases in Germany.

The differences of opinion over Iraq threatened to ruffle feathers at the summit, little could overshadow the significance of its grand accomplishment. The conference paved the way for former Warsaw pact countries including Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia to join the alliance, thus erasing political and economic divides that have scarred Europe for a half-century. They are expected to join in 2004, bringing to an end criticism that NATO remains a Cold War relic.

Separately, the alliance also approved sweeping reforms including the creation of a NATO response force. The Europe-led troops, which are to become operational in two years, would be made up of special forces from a handful of allied countries and could be deployed within three days to trouble spots around the world. The alliance also secured commitment from nine members to increase defense spending substantially and 408 "firm and specific political commitments" from all 19 members to develop new capabilities where there are considerable deficiencies.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The invitations to the Baltic states – expected to join in 2004 - would once have rung

particularly loud alarm bells in Moscow, but the formation of the Nato-Russia Council appears to have taken the edge off Russian concerns.

Some Western analysts predict that expansion will make an already unwieldy alliance less effective militarily and that, rather than spreading stability throughout Europe, it is simply drawing new lines of confrontation and creating new instability.

The new relationship with Russia is seen by many as confirmation that Nato has made the decision to transform its agenda from that of the Cold War into one where the focus is on combating major international threats such as terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

How this role will develop, particularly as the EU is looking to flex its own foreign policy and military muscles, remains to be seen.

Space Shuttle Endeavour Lifts Off After Delays

BACKGROUND:

The first proposal for a manned station occurred in 1869, when an American novelist told the story of how a "Brick Moon" came to orbit Earth to help ships navigate at sea. In 1923, Romanian Hermann Oberth was the first to use the term "space station" to describe a wheel-like facility that would serve as the jumping off place for human journeys to the moon and Mars. In 1952, Dr. Werner von Braun published his concept of a space station in Collier's magazine. He envisioned a space station that would have a diameter of 250 feet, orbit more than 1,000 miles above the Earth, and spin to provide artificial gravity through centrifugal force.

The Soviet Union launched the world's first space station, Salyut 1, in 1971 - a decade after launching the first human into space. The United States sent its first space station, the larger Skylab, into orbit in 1973 and it hosted three crews before it was abandoned in 1974. Russia

continued to focus on long-duration space missions and in 1986 launched the first modules of the Mir space station.

In 1998, the first two modules of the International Space Station were launched and joined together in orbit. Other modules soon followed and the first crew arrived in 2000. It has had human life on it ever since. The space station's current three residents have been on board since June. The delays were starting to pile up for NASA's latest delivery trip to the space station, in need of a fresh crew, another new girder and spare parts for a balky air-cleanser.

Endeavour should have flown in October, but was grounded until November because of cracked fuel lines found throughout the shuttle fleet. Then during a Nov. 11 launch attempt, oxygen leaked from a cracked hose in the astronauts' supply line. While trying to fix that, workers damaged the shuttle's robot arm; fortunately, no repairs were needed. And then the weather interfered to delay the launch from Friday night to Saturday.

Learn more about NASA history at <http://history.nasa.gov/>.

STORY:



Space shuttle Endeavour streaked toward orbit Saturday night after weeks of delay, carrying up a new set of residents and another massive building block for the international space station.

NASA had feared storms in Spain might postpone the flight for the second day in a row. But in the end, the rain held off at one of the two overseas emergency landing strips and managers cleared Endeavour and its seven astronauts for takeoff.

"From the bridge of Endeavour, we're ready to set thundering sail," replied commander James Wetherbee.

Both Spanish air bases were soaked in Friday night by the same storm system that sank an oil tanker earlier in the week. Only one had to

be available for use by Endeavour in the rare event of engine failure or some other emergency during liftoff.

Endeavour is loaded with a \$390 million space station girder almost identical to one launched last month. Two crew members — including the first American Indian ever launched, John Herrington — will hook it up during three spacewalks this week.

The shuttle also is taking up valves for the U.S. carbon-dioxide removal unit aboard the station and extra air-scrubbing canisters. Both the American and Russian air purifiers have malfunctioned in recent weeks.

Endeavour is the ride home for American astronaut Peggy Whitson and Russian cosmonauts Valery Korzun and Sergei Treschev, who have been living on the space station since June. Saturday was their 171st day in orbit.

They will be replaced by Americans Kenneth Bowersox and Donald Pettit and Russian Nikolai Budarin, who will stay for at least four months.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The International Space Station celebrated its second anniversary of continuous residency on Nov. 2.

"Our success in the past two years has been phenomenal. We are blazing a trail in space and on Earth, through research and international cooperation, which can improve lives and expand exploration. We have many challenges ahead, but this team's continued hard work and dedication will build a final facility that eclipses even today's station," said Bill Gerstenmaier, International Space Station Program manager.

During the two-year period since Expedition One Commander Bill Shepherd, Pilot Yuri Gidzenko and Flight Engineer Sergei Krikalev arrived at the station in 2000, its size has increased more than 90,718 kilograms (200,000 pounds). Sixty-five U.S. science investigations have been launched aboard the orbital outpost. Also, six three-member crews have called the station home.

ENTERTAINMENT:**Bush's Hit Single?**

"Make no mistake about it."

Before President Bush's speech Saturday congratulating Lithuania on its invitation into NATO people could hear that favorite Bush expression and other snippets from his anti-terror addresses on a lively dance cut recorded by a local songwriter and TV personality.

Bush's "make no mistake" is the refrain in the tune on a CD given to some invitees to a dance party Friday night at an art gallery just down the street from the hotel where the president was staying. It also includes the phrases "the only motivation is evil" and "we cannot have terrorism dictate our course of action."

One room at the gallery was festooned with dozens of identical pictures of Bush wearing a half-smile, half-grimace, and organizers said the CD would be played for the young crowd.

"We want to show that there are modern forms to celebrate Lithuania's invitation to NATO," said Jonas Oskinis, account manager at the Baltic Public Relations Group, which released the recording compiled by Algis Greitai.

"House music is very fashionable in Lithuania right now, and we thought we could mix these two things," he said.

The CD, in a case depicting Bush and the NATO symbol, is not for sale, and Oskinis said the party and CD release were not for profit.

Bush's arrived in Lithuania Friday evening aboard Air Force One. The interview was interspersed with old Bush family photographs and recollections from Bush's parents. Bush and the first lady gave their interviewer a tour of the White House. The interview, conducted in English with a voiceover in Russian, was shown with Lithuanian subtitles on Lithuanian TV. The program also included footage of Bush giving Putin a ride in a jeep during their Crawford, Texas, summit in November 2001.

SPORTS:**2002 Ironman
Championhips**

The World Championship Ironman competition was held Saturday in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. A 2.4-mile ocean swim, 112-mile bike race and 26.2-mile run, the Ironman tests human strength and endurance beyond rational thought. Competitors have 17 hours to finish the race; cutoff times are also applied to each segment.

Nearly 1,500 competitors, ages 18-80, compete from 50-plus countries and all 50 states. Nearly 50,000 competitors attempt to qualify at Ironman qualifying races worldwide. Another 4,000 enter the race lottery. The 2001 age group champions automatically qualified for the 2002 race.

The goal: pride, and a total of \$430,000, the richest in the sport of triathlon. Both the first male and female finisher receives \$100,000.

The average Ironman triathlete spends 18 to 24 hours each week training for this event. A typical week includes seven miles of swimming, 225 miles of biking and 48 miles of running. Many competitors also cross-train with weight training, stretching and yoga, among other activities.

COURSE RECORDS:

Men - Luc Van Lierde, 8:04:08 in 1996.

Women - Paula Newby-Fraser, 8:55:28 in 1992.

FACTS:

During the course of the race, more than 200,000 cups, 30,000 bike bottles, 15,000 feet of banners, 100,000 gallons of fluid replacement, cola, water and soup, 4,000 visors and 600 bottles of sunscreen are used and offered by nearly 7,000 volunteers lining the 140.6-mile course. More than 50 million people worldwide watch the event on television.

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Agatha Christie

Agatha Christie is the world's best-known mystery writer. Her books have sold over a billion copies in the English language and another billion in over 45 foreign languages. She is outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare.



Agatha Miller was born in Torquay, England on September 15, 1890. In 1914 she married Colonel Archibald Christie, an aviator in the Royal Flying Corps. The couple had one daughter, Rosalind, before their divorce in 1928.

In a writing career that spanned more than half a century, Agatha Christie wrote 79 novels and short story collections. She also wrote over a dozen plays including *The Mousetrap*, which is now the longest continuously running play in theatrical history.

Christie's first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920), was also the first to feature her eccentric Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. Poirot's "little grey cells" triumphed over devious criminals in 33 novels and many dozens of short stories. Christie's last published novel, *Sleeping Murder* (1976), featured her other world-famous sleuth, the shrewdly inquisitive Miss Jane Marple of St. Mary Mead. Miss Marple appeared in twelve novels, beginning with *The Murder at the Vicarage* in 1930.

Both Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple have been widely dramatized in feature films and made-for-TV movies. *Murder on the Orient Express* (1974), *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), *Then There Were None* (1945), and *Death on the Nile* (1978) are a few of the films based on her works.

Agatha Christie also wrote six romantic novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. She wrote nonfiction as well - four books including an autobiography and an entertaining account of the many archeological expeditions she

shared with her second husband, Sir Max Mallowan. In 1971, she achieved her country's highest honor when she received the Order of Dame Commander of the British Empire. Agatha Christie died on January 12, 1976.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

November 25, 1952

**"MOUSETRAP"
OPENS:**

"*The Mousetrap*," a murder-mystery written by the novelist and playwright Agatha Christie, opens at the Ambassadors Theatre in London. The crowd-pleasing whodunit would go on to become the longest continuously running play in history, with more than 10 million people to date attending its more than 20,000 performances in London's West End.

Initially called "*Three Blind Mice*," it debuted as a 30-minute radio play on the queen's 80th birthday in 1947. Christie later extended the play and renamed it "*The Mousetrap*"--a reference to the play-within-a-play performed in William Shakespeare's "*Hamlet*."

On November 25, 1952, 453 people took their seats in the Ambassadors Theatre for the London premiere of Christie's "*Mousetrap*." The drama is played out at "*Monkswell Manor*," whose hosts and guests are snowed in among radio reports of a murderer on the loose. Soon a detective shows up on skis with the terrifying news that the murderer, and probably the next victim, is likely both among their number. Soon the clues and false leads pile as high as the snow.

Richard Attenborough and his wife, Sheila Sim, were the first stars of "*The Mousetrap*." To date, more than 300 actors and actresses have been part of the cast. David Raven, who played "*Major Metcalf*" for 4,575 performances, is in the "*Guinness Book of World Records*" as the world's most durable actor, while Nancy Seabrooke is the world's most patient understudy for 6,240 performances as the substitute for "*Mrs. Boyle*."

FEATURE:

Origins of the Big 3 Networks

NATIONAL BROADCASTING NETWORK

NBC is the oldest of the “Big Three” American broadcasting networks. It was founded on September 13, 1926 by the Radio Corporation of American (RCA), the world’s largest radio manufacturer, because they feared low quality radio broadcasting was hurting sales.

Spurred on by RCA president David Sarnoff, NBC quickly became the most potent force in radio. The demand for programming was so high that within a year NBC split its radio operations into two divisions—the Red and Blue Networks. The two continued broadcasting until 1943, when the government forced NBC to sell off the Blue Network in an antitrust suit.

Meanwhile, RCA was experimenting with television (which Sarnoff called the “art of distant seeing”). In 1931 NBC built its first television transmitter, on top of the Empire State Building. Although development of TV was subsequently slowed by the Depression, regular TV service was started by NBC in 1939...and the first TV network broadcast ever was on January 11, 1940, from NBC in New York City to a General Electric-owned station in Schenectady, New York.

Because America was putting its resources into the war effort from 1941 to 1945, NBC couldn’t begin regular network TV broadcasts until 1945. RCA was the sole owner of NBC until 1985, when GE bought RCA for \$6.8 billion.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM

In the 1920’s, Arthur Judson was a talent agent whose clients included the New York Philharmonic. When NBC pioneered TV broadcasting in 1926, Judson cut a deal with them to broadcast several of his clients—but NBC reneged on its promise. Judson was so angry that he started his own radio broadcasting network. He called it the United Independent Broadcasters and

began signing up the independent radio stations around the country.

Judson was too broke to run the company alone so he joined forces with Columbia Phonograph and Records Co. and changed the network’s name to the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System. It initially provided 10 hours of programming to 16 affiliates. But CPBS was losing money, and Columbia Phonograph pulled out. They sold their shares to Jerome Louchheim, a wealthy Philadelphia banker, who renamed CPBS the Columbia Broadcasting System. He, in turn, sold out to William Paley for \$400,000 in 1929. Paley (whose father, owner of the Congress Cigar Co., was one of CBS’s largest advertisers) turned the ailing network around almost overnight. By 1932 CBS was earning more than \$3 million a year in profits—and in 1939 it was doing so well it bought its former owner, Columbia Phonograph and Records.

AMERICAN BROADCASTING SYSTEM

When the US government forced NBC to sell off its Blue Network in 1943, Lifesaver candy manufacturer Edward J. Noble bought it for \$8 million and renamed it ABC. Ten years later, ABC merged with United Paramount Theaters—a chain of movie theaters the government had forced Paramount to sell—and went into broadcasting.

A perpetual “weak sister” to its larger rival NBC, ABC remained a second-rate network until 1954, when its gavel to gavel coverage of the US Senate’s Army-McCarthy hearing made history...and gave them newfound respectability.

ABC remained much smaller than its rivals, but made up for its lack of money but producing more innovative TV shows than CBS and NBC. Some of these groundbreaking shows include “the Mickey Mouse Club” and “Batman.” ABC also revolutionized sports coverage shows like Monday Night Football and the “Wide World of Sports.” The network used the profits generated from sports and miniseries to strengthen its news and prime time programming—and in 1975 its overall ratings shot ahead of its rivals for the first time. It has been an equal ever since.

Quote of the Week:

Vary everything, except your loves.

-Voltaire

Fact of the Week:

The white half moon under your fingernail is an airpocket. No one knows why it is there.

Word of the Week:

endeavor, n. An exertion of physical strength or the intellectual powers toward the attainment of some object; an effort; an essay; an attempt.

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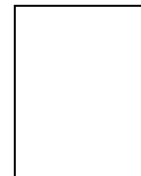
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