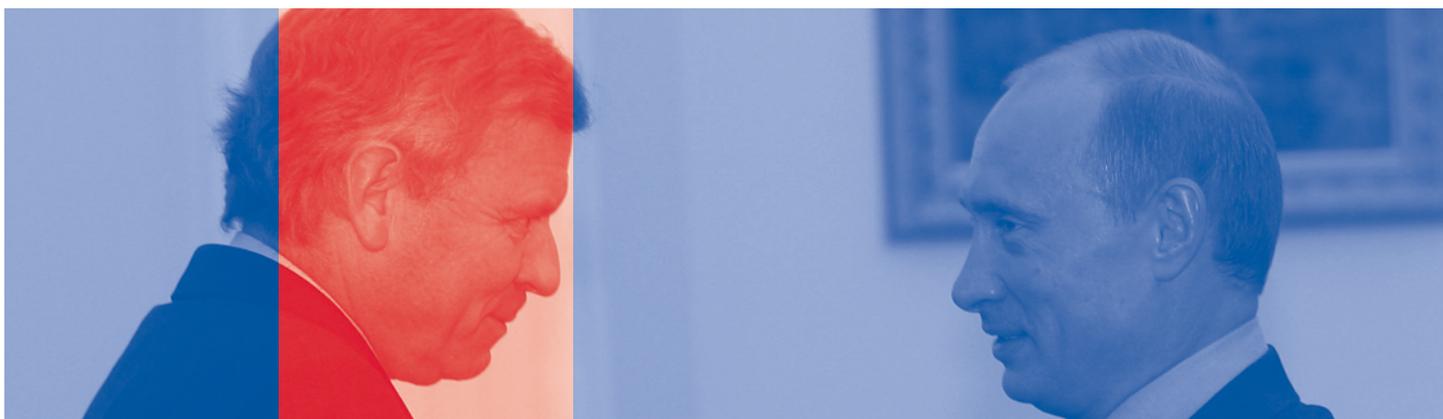




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NATO-Russia News 3/06

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NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer meets President Vladimir Putin to discuss key issues on the NATO-Russia agenda

NATO Secretary General visits Moscow

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer visited Moscow on 26 October for meetings with President Vladimir Putin, Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov and Secretary of the Security Council Igor Ivanov, as well as members of the Russian parliament.

Discussions focused on key issues on the NATO-Russia agenda, including how to deepen military-to-military cooperation and how to stimulate more political exchanges between the Allies and Russia. Both the President and the Secretary General said that NATO-Russia relations were in good shape and that there was scope for deepening cooperation.

Some more contentious issues were also raised, including Russian concerns about possible future enlargements of the Alliance, ratification of the Adapted Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), and current tensions between Georgia and Russia.

Many of these issues were addressed in an interview with Interfax, which the Secretary General gave on the eve of his visit. On the question of enlargement, he emphasised that any future enlargement should not be seen as hostile to Russia, which is an important strategic partner for the Alliance.

“For the past decade, the NATO enlargement process has served as a means of institutionalising democratic reform and a firm commitment to collective security throughout Central and Eastern Europe,” he said. He underlined that this had benefited not only the Alliance but also Russia and other countries in the Euro-Atlantic area, by helping ensure peace and stability throughout the region. “The states who aspire to membership in NATO do not seek to join an 'anti-Russian' Alliance. As partners, and perhaps one day as Allies, they are enhancing their capability to contribute in a meaningful way to multilateral solutions to shared security challenges.”

Regarding Russian concerns about the delays in ratifying the Adapted CFE Treaty, the Secretary General clearly stated that all members of the Alliance would like to see the treaty enter into force as soon as possible. “For this to happen, however, all 30 CFE states need to ratify the adaptation agreement. Two of those states, Georgia and Moldova, have made clear that they will not do so as long as Russian military forces remain on their territory without their consent (a violation of Article 4 of the Treaty). [...] The so-called 'Istanbul commitments', adopted at the OSCE Istanbul Summit in 1999, were designed to resolve a number of compliance concerns, including this one, and achieve ratification by all CFE states. NATO Allies have supported this process, including by lending financial support to the relocation of Russian forces and to the destruction of obsolete munitions.” The Secretary General acknowledged that progress had been made over the past two years in implementing Russia's commitments to Georgia, but that unfortunately this was not the case with respect to Moldova. Until these outstanding “Istanbul commitments” are resolved, it is unlikely that parliaments in Allied countries will be willing to ratify the Adapted Treaty.

With regard to the current tensions between Georgia and Russia, the Secretary General has called for both sides to de-escalate the conflict, and expressed his hope that Russia could lift those measures that can be seen as punitive as soon as possible. He also stressed that NATO is not a party to the dispute and there is no link whatsoever that should be made to the granting of the "Intensified Dialogue" formula to Georgia by NATO.



Defence Minister Sergey Ivanov joins Allied counterparts in Slovenia for a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council

NRC defence ministers meet in Slovenia

NATO-Russia Council (NRC) defence ministers met in formal session at Portorož, Slovenia on 29 September. The meeting was a timely and welcome opportunity for an exchange of views on the state of NATO-Russia defence cooperation and allowed ministers to compare notes on priorities for the rest of the year and for 2007. Ministers remain strongly supportive of NATO-Russia cooperation and directed that efforts be undertaken to ensure continued progress towards concrete goals.

The meeting took place against the background of a solid record of achievements in the NRC framework on defence and military issues including Russia's operational contribution to NATO's maritime counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean, Operation Active Endeavour, earlier in September (see p. 4). Afghanistan also featured prominently in the discussion with ministers noting, in particular, the successful beginning of the first counter-narcotics training courses under the NRC pilot project on Counter-narcotics Training of Afghan and Central Asian Personnel (see p. 6). Ministers also discussed progress in the areas of theatre missile defence, the Cooperative Airspace Initiative, and defence reform and cooperation, as well as possibilities for additional NATO-Russia practical cooperation including ways to make the partnership increasingly operational.

NATO operations and missions in Afghanistan, the Balkans, Iraq, and Darfur were also addressed, as were other current international security concerns. As tensions between Georgia and Russia had recently flared up, Allied ministers urged restraint and de-escalation of the situation.

NATO-Russia emergency-response exercise

Emergency-response teams from Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Russia practised responses to a terrorist attack using a "dirty bomb" (or radiological dispersal device) in a NATO-Russia exercise, "Lazio 2006", which took place in Montelibretti, Italy, from 23 to 26 October.

Over 250 personnel worked in teams, side-by-side, to deal with the consequences of the simulated terrorist attack. They practised activities such as search and rescue, radiological detection and monitoring, decontamination and the delivery of medical assistance. The exercise also tested the use of robots and air-mobile radiological detection techniques.

In parallel with the field exercise, a seminar involving more than 150 experts from 29 countries took place at the Senior Fire-fighters Institute in Rome. Discussion focused on issues related to the delivery of international and humanitarian assistance,



Russian personnel deploy a robot for the detection of radiological agents during a NATO-Russia exercise in Italy

critical infrastructure protection, medical and psychological aspects of terrorist attacks, and legal aspects of emergency-response operations.

This was the third consequence-management exercise to be organised under the auspices of the NATO-Russia Council. Scenarios of previous exercises, "Bogorodsk 2002" and "Kaliningrad 2004", also involved responses to terrorist attacks.

Theatre missile defence exercise in Moscow

The third in a series of joint NATO-Russia theatre missile defence command post exercises took place from 16 to 25 October, for the first time, in Russia. The exercise was organised under the auspices of the NATO-Russia Council's working group on theatre missile defence. It was conducted at the Russian Simulation Facility located in Moscow at the Research and Development Centre of the Russian Ministry of Defence.

Over 60 participants from 11 NATO member countries and 80 Russian participants took part in the event. Additional support and participation was provided by NATO's Military Authorities and International Staff, the Extended Air Defence Task Force* and Russia's Ministry of Defence.

This computer-assisted, real time event focused on command and control of missile defence forces deployed in a specific theatre of operations. The exercise served to validate experimental concepts developed by the working group on theatre missile defence. Together with a joint Interoperability Study, such exercises are intended to provide the basis for future work on improving interoperability between Allied and Russian forces, and to develop mechanisms and procedures for joint operations in the area of theatre missile defence.

Over three million euros have already been committed to the theatre missile defence study and exercise programme. Earlier command post exercises have been held at Colorado Springs, the United States, in March 2004, and in the Netherlands, in March 2005.

*The EADTF is a three-nation Patriot system operational planning staff. Its mission is to plan, coordinate and provide liaison for German/Dutch/US combined air defence activities, training, exercises and interoperability tests.

Russian ship joins NATO operation

For the first time since Russia withdrew its peacekeepers from the NATO-led operations in the Balkans in summer 2003, NATO and Russia renewed operational cooperation in September, when the first Russian ship joined Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's counter-terrorist operation in the Mediterranean.

Marking the culmination of nearly two years of preparations, the Russian frigate *Pytliviy* was authorised by the North Atlantic Council - NATO's principal decision-making body - to participate in NATO's Operation Active Endeavour on 15 September. The *Pytliviy* was fully integrated into the NATO naval task group, which is conducting counter-terrorist operations in the



The Russian frigate *Pytliviy* joins NATO's counter-terrorist operation in



Mediterranean. Under NATO operational control, the Russian crew's task was to help monitor shipping and possible terrorist threats. Other Russian ships are expected to be rotated into the operation in future.

The *Pytliviy* is the first ship from a NATO partner country to actively support the operation, which was launched in October 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Ukraine is currently preparing to support the operation and other countries (Albania, Algeria, Georgia, Israel and Morocco) have also offered their active support.

See video clip: www2.hq.nato.int/multi/video/2006/060918-russian-ship/v060918a.wmv



the Mediterranean on 15 September

Interoperability course in Moscow

The third NATO-Russia Interoperability course to be conducted by a NATO Mobile Education Training Team in Moscow took place in the first two weeks of October. The course was held for faculty members and officers at the Frunze Combined Arms Academy and at the Military Academy of the Russian General Staff.

The programme featured lectures by NATO officers and senior civilian leadership on a range of topics, including security, crisis management and public information, as well as briefings on ongoing NATO-led operations and discussions on prospects for developing interoperability between Allied and Russian forces. The course was one of 42 events included in the NATO-Russia Interoperability Framework Programme for 2006.

"These Mobile Education Training Team events are excellent learning opportunities for everyone involved," said Major General Joseph Stein, NATO's Chief Military Operations Officer at Allied Command Operations, who opened the event. "This year Russian officers went to the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, to teach NATO officers. This is a remarkable exchange programme that is leading to greater understanding between our militaries."

Counter-narcotics training project

The first training courses for Afghan law enforcement officers - under the pilot project on Counter-narcotics Training of Afghan and Central Asian personnel launched by the foreign ministers of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) on 8 December - started in September at training centres in Turkey and Russia.

The first two courses trained 34 Afghan law enforcement officers at the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC) in Ankara and the Russian International Training Centre at Domodedovo near Moscow. The trainees are selected by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in close cooperation with their national authorities.

A graduation ceremony to mark the successful completion of the first two-week course by 15 Afghan trainees was held on 23 October at the Domodedovo Centre, attended by representatives of NATO, UNODC and the Afghan embassy in Moscow, as well as Russian officials from the foreign ministry, the interior ministry, the federal agency for counter-narcotics and the federal security service. Another three groups of both Afghan and Central Asian personnel will take part in training courses before the end of 2006. The training includes on-site examination, search, disclosure and shutting down of illegal laboratories, and other essential counter-narcotics strategies and techniques.

The aim of this ambitious initiative is to contribute to security in and around Afghanistan by sharing the combined expertise of NRC member states with mid-level officers from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. In addition to specialist training at existing facilities in Russia and Turkey, NRC mobile training teams will begin conducting additional training in Central Asia from December and into 2007. The UNODC was asked to serve as the pilot project's executive agent in order to ensure that it complements other ongoing counter-narcotics efforts.



A ceremony is held at the Domodedovo Centre for the first Afghan trainees to complete counter-narcotics training under a NATO-Russia pilot project

NATO-Russia News aims to highlight different aspects of NATO's cooperation with Russia. It is based on *Novosti NATO*, a quarterly newsletter for audiences in Russia, which is published in Russian.

NATO Public Diplomacy Division

1110 Brussels, Belgium

Email: natodoc@hq.nato.int

Further information on NATO-Russia relations is available at:

(in English) www.nato.int/issues/nato-russia

(in Russian) www.nato.int/russia

In Russia, further information and publications are available from:

NATO Information Office

at the Embassy of Belgium

Ulitsa Mytnaya 3, 119049 Moscow, Russia

Tel.: +7 495 937 3640

Fax: +7 495 937 3809

Email: office@nio-moscow.nato.int

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