

# Introductory Address for NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen

by Jessica T. Mathews, President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, my name is Jessica Mathews, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to today's speech by Anders Fogh Rasmussen, twelfth Secretary General of NATO.

We're delighted and honored to host the Secretary General's first speech since taking office on 1 August. But, Mr. Secretary General, may I say it is also apt that you chose Carnegie. For our two organizations share a common mission: maintaining and promoting international peace.

Since the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty sixty years ago, the alliance has been dedicated to upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter and its aim that all peoples and all governments should live in peace.

Similarly, when he founded the Endowment in 1910, Scottish-American Andrew Carnegie charged its trustees to use the fund to "hasten the abolition of international war, the foulest blot upon our civilization," and gave his trustees "the widest discretion as to the measures and policy they might use" in carrying out the purpose of the fund.

Throughout its 99-year history, the Endowment has done just that, changing its approaches as global circumstances changed. At various stages, the Endowment had offices in Paris and Geneva working on international conciliation in Europe, financing reconstruction projects, supporting the work of other organizations and founding the Academy of International Law at The Hague. In 2007, Carnegie returned to Europe by launching its European foreign policy forum – Carnegie Europe – whose regional office is at the heart of multilateral Europe, here in Brussels. Since then, Carnegie Europe has engaged with European foreign policy stakeholders across European cities by bringing the unique and sometimes provocative perspectives of its scholars from Washington, Moscow, Beirut and Beijing. With Carnegie Europe hosting today the NATO Secretary General, this is a new milestone in our development in Europe.

I would like to commend the Secretary General for choosing a meaty, controversial and deeply important topic - NATO's relations with Russia - as the subject of his first speech. Many of you will have read his interviews this week in which he talked of his "vision" of "a true strategic partnership" with Moscow.

Carnegie too has Russia's relations with the West at the heart of its work. Fifteen years ago, reacting to the historic earthquake that had just taken place in Russia, we founded the Carnegie Moscow Center. Since then the Center has become the leading public policy institution operating in the region. Its outstanding Russia scholars, not least its brilliant director, Dmitri Trenin—here in the audience today—is all the richer for having input and views from both Moscow and Washington.

The success of our Moscow Center became the inspiration and model for a fundamental redefinition of Carnegie's role and mission – to become *the first truly multinational and ultimately global think tank*.

Since 2007, we have added operations in China, the Middle East and, of course, Europe, to those in Russia and the United States. The idea of this New Vision is that in today's world a think tank whose mission is to contribute to global peace and prosperity requires a permanent international presence and a multinational outlook at the core of its operations.

In his inaugural press conference Secretary General Rasmussen lost no time in announcing the beginning of his own new vision— a new Strategic Concept for NATO to be agreed at the next summit in Lisbon. Looking back at the Secretary General's career, marked by political achievement after achievement, it is hard to think of anyone better suited to this ambition.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen started his political career straight after graduating when he became member of the Danish Parliament representing the Liberal Party.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Mr. Rasmussen has held numerous positions in government and opposition. In 2001, he became Prime Minister of Denmark. Among many other achievements, Mr. Rasmussen played a key role at President of the European Union in the accession negotiations with 10 candidates for EU-membership at the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen in 2002.

After being twice re-elected, he remained Prime Minister until chosen as future NATO Secretary General last April.

Secretary General, many of us applauded when, within days of taking office, you named relations with Russia as one of your top three priorities. It is wrong that as we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall relations with Russia can sometimes be nearly as contentious as they were during the Cold War, that the supply of energy or relations with Georgia or the Ukraine can bring relations almost to breaking point. We at Carnegie are doing our part to help rebuild and re-think these relations and will soon announce a major U.S.-Europe-Russia initiative to help define the shape of a new three-way, security and economic compact.

Getting NATO's relations with Russia and its neighbors right would unlock cooperation on so many crucial issues.

Mr Secretary-General, we look forward to hearing your views.