
No. 17/92
May 1, 1992

EC ENVOY CALLS FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

The Head of the EC Delegation in Washington, Ambassador Andreas van Agt, today called for a global partnership to help deal with the momentous changes taking place in the former Soviet Union and elsewhere in the world.

He declared: "In the aftermath of the Cold War, during which American military might guaranteed its preeminence in the free world, the time has come to recognize the legitimate claims of other world powers to participate in a partnership of equals."

Ambassador van Agt, in a speech to the George F. Kennan Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, said that the New World Order outlined by President George Bush had not yet been brought about. Rather, we were currently experiencing a new world disorder as a result of the sudden upheavals in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

He said: "It would be ironic if, having been vindicated by the crumbling of Communism, the countries of the West were to replace the common front which brought about the demise of the Soviet system with internecine squabbles that could create dangerous new fault lines between natural allies."

"How unseemly this would appear to those countries who looked to us as a touchstone for their own aspirations, and who, having made the historic break with the past, now rely on us for the help they need to copperfasten their still fragile democracies."

Note: The George F. Kennan Forum on International Affairs was named for the distinguished Milwaukee-born former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union who developed the policy of containment during the Cold War period. This year's third annual Forum focused on "The New Europe: East and West". Mr. Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State, was among the other speakers.

Press Contacts: Ella Krucoff
(202) 862-9540

Maeve O'Beirne
(202) 862-9549