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(THORVALD STOLTENBERG)

Thorvald Stoltenberg has been Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia since April 1993. Until January 1994 he was, in addition to being Co-Chairman, also the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in the Former Yugoslavia, responsible for all peacekeeping, peacemaking and humanitarian activities.

Thorvald Stoltenberg was born in Oslo on 8 July 1931. He is married to Karin Stoltenberg and they have three children. He studied International Law and International Relations in Norway, Austria, Switzerland, the USA and Finland, receiving his law degree in 1957.

Mr Stoltenberg has previously been United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

From 1971 to 1993 his positions included: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Trade and Shipping, Deputy Mayor of Oslo, Minister of Defence, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the United Nations in New York and then again Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From 1974 to 1975 Mr Stoltenberg was Head of a Commission entrusted with the task of building up the Norwegian Coastguard.

Mr Stoltenberg has been extensively involved in peacemaking activities in situations such as: Vietnam, Nigeria (Biafra), the Middle-East, southern Africa and Central America. He initiated the "Oslo Channel" for Middle-East peace negotiations.

As Foreign Minister of Norway he launched the initiative for cooperation in the Barents Sea region.

In 1978/79 Mr Stoltenberg was Chairman of the United Nations General Assembly's Committee of the Whole on International Economic Development.

Mr Stoltenberg has published books and articles on foreign and security policy, and on domestic issues.

