



## The UK-US Alliance: Still Special or just another Partnership?

A RUSI-Legatum Institute Conference  
18 May 2010

0830 Registration: Tea and Coffee

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0915 Welcome Remarks and Survey Launch

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0945 **Session One:** UK Public Opinion: Political Will for Real Partnership?

*Has the gap over the Iraq War closed and how does the UK public view the US now? Do historically strong ties have a sustainable basis to continue?*

*Have recent frictions further eroded ties between the two nations or is there renewed interest in the UK for a closer strategic partnership with the US?*

*Does the UK share America's global vision and do the two powers overlap in their foreign policy approaches? Does the UK see itself as closer to the EU or the US?*

Chair: **Bronwen Maddox**, Chief Foreign Commentator, *The Times*

Speakers:

**Jeremy Shapiro**, Senior Advisor Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State

**Peter Feaver**, Professor of Political Science, Duke University and former Special Advisor to the National Security Council

**Sir Christopher Meyer**, British Ambassador to the United States (1997 - 2003)

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1115 Morning Tea and Coffee

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1130 **Session Two:** NATO at a Crossroads? Afghanistan and the Reform Agenda

*Do the US and the UK share the same level of commitment to NATO?*

*How can NATO reform decision-making procedures to improve agility, flexibility and responsiveness? Can the consensus principle be re-considered at any level?*

*Is it right for Afghanistan to dominate longer-term thinking for defence planning?*

*What lessons should the US, NATO and the UK learn from operational experience in Afghanistan since the implementation of the new strategy?*

Chair: **Professor Michael Clarke**, Director, RUSI (TBD)

Speakers:

**Kurt Volker**, former United States Permanent Representative to NATO

**Christopher Coker**, Professor of International Relations, LSE

**Geoff Hoon**, British politician, former Defence Secretary

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1300 Lunch

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1400 **Session Three:** Renewing the Defence and Intelligence Partnership

*How does defence spending measure up against national priorities and how will cuts in the UK affect the special relationship?*

*What lessons can be learned from the American QDR and what are the prospects for new thinking in a foreign policy-led UK Strategic Defence Review?*

*How can the US and the UK improve defence co-operation after the Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty?*

Chair: **Sir Paul Lever**, Vice President, RUSI

Speakers:

**Edgar Buckley**, Senior Vice President for EU, NATO and European Cooperation, Thales

**Sir David Omand**, Vice President RUSI, previously Permanent Secretary of the Home Office

**Kori Schake**, Research Fellow, Hoover Institution and Former Director for Defense Strategy and Requirements, National Security Council

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1530 Tea and Coffee

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1545 **Session Four:** Evaluating Leadership: Obama and the new British Government

*What will the relationship be between the new UK Government and the Obama Administration?*

*Can the UK reject a 'strategic shrinkage' despite economic pressures? To what extent do the US and the UK still share global interests, responsibilities and foreign policy approaches?*

*How can both sides freshen and deepen their alliance? Will the next UK Government be able to take on a position of leadership in Europe?*

Chair: **William Inboden**, Senior Vice President, Legatum Institute

Speakers:

**Karen Donfried**, Executive Vice President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Lord Robertson**, former Secretary General of NATO

**Robin Niblett**, Director, Chatham House

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1715     Drinks Reception

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**For further information, please contact Dr Lisa Aronsson.**  
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**To register, please visit [www.rusi.org/UKUSalliance](http://www.rusi.org/UKUSalliance)**