

Diplomacy and Peacekeeping

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

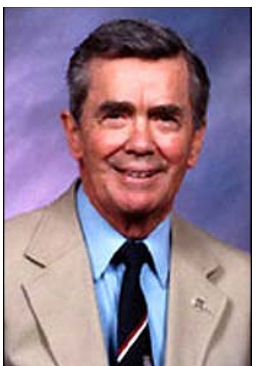
Meet the presenters...



J. Brian Atwood is the Dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. He has worked on foreign policy issues since he joined the Foreign Service in 1966. He served in American Embassies in Cote d'Ivoire and Spain. From 1972 to 1977, he worked as legislative advisor for foreign and defense policy for Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (D-Mo.). During the Carter Administration, he served as assistant secretary of state for congressional relations. In 2001, Atwood served on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's Panel on Peace Operations. He was the only American on the ten-member "Brahimi" panel. He also served on the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board during this period. Prior to joining the Institute in 2002, Atwood served for six years as administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) during the Administration of President Clinton.



Dr. William J. Durch joined the Henry L. Stimson Center in 1990, where he is Co-director of the Future of Peace Operations Project. Before joining Stimson, he served in the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, as Assistant Director of the Defense and Arms Control Studies Program at MIT, and was a Research Fellow at the Harvard Center for Science and International Affairs. Dr. Durch served as Project Director of the United Nations Panel on UN Peace Operations (the Brahimi Report). He is a consultant to the United Nations on projects focused on improving the effectiveness of peacekeeping at UN headquarters and in the field. He has published a number of works on the subject, including "Picking up the Peaces—the UN's Evolving Post Conflict Roles", Washington Quarterly, September 2003, and "Who Should Keep the Peace? Providing Security for Twenty-first Century Peace Operations", Stimson Center, 2006. He was the editor of "Twenty-first Century Peace Operations," USIP, 2006. He has a PHD from MIT, and has taught at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, and at the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.



Ambassador Bruce Laingen is currently President of the American Academy of Diplomacy. A Minnesota native, he served in the US Navy in World War II and in the US Foreign Service from 1949 to 1987. His tours of service include assignments in Germany, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. He served as the US Ambassador to Malta from 1977 to 1979. In mid 1979 he returned to Iran for a second tour as chargé d'affaires of the American Embassy before being held hostage in the Iran hostage crisis from November 4, 1979 to January 20, 1981. Following his release, Ambassador Laingen served as Vice President of the National Defense University in Washington DC, until his retirement from the Foreign Service in 1987. He was Executive Director of the National Commission on the Public Service (the Volcker Commission) from 1987 until the Commission completed its work in 1990. Ambassador Laingen serves on the boards of A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, the Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, No Greater Love and the National Defense University Foundation.



Ambassador William Lacy Swing is the Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with the rank of Under-Secretary-General. He serves as the chief of mission for United Nations activities in the DRC (MONUC). Before being appointed to his current assignment, Mr. Swing was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Chief of Mission, United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) starting in November of 2001. Before his work in the United Nations, Mr. Swing served in the Senior Foreign Service Department of the US Department of State. His appointments, spanning 40 years of service, include five postings as Ambassador to African countries - South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (ex-Zaire), and the former People's Republic of the Congo (Congo Brazzaville), senior positions in Washington DC and the ambassador to Haiti from 1993-98.