

**Houston Area
Model United Nations
Crisis Committee**

**Mock NATO London
Summit 1990**



**Crisis Director | Madeline Kling
Houston Area Model United Nations 51
February 5 & 6, 2026**

Note to Delegates

Delegates,

Hi y'all! My name is Madeline and I am a freshman Plan II Honors, International Relations & Global Studies, and French major at UT Austin. I joined Model UN my sophomore year of high school, and I instantly fell in love with Model UN and the process of drafting resolutions and directives. Model UN pushed me towards my dream career of working in diplomacy and was a prime factor in me choosing my college majors.

I wanted to create this crisis because NATO is an incredibly important committee globally and I wanted to open up the opportunity for delegates to experience a political body so prevalent today. I am very excited about our topics of a new European order, the modernization of NATO, and the Cold War divides that are a very relevant topic to the modern era.

Delegates, when you enter committee room you step foot onto the streets of London in 1990. The Cold War, and it's long-lasting implications, have finally come to a close, and a new era for the West is rising. How big of a role will you allow yourself to play? NATO is a governing body of some of the world's greatest power, and the summit happening today will establish who will be a leader of the hegemony going forward, who will emerge as a powerhouse on the global stage. I look forward to see how this committee ends!

Madeline Kling

Chair of NATO London Summit 1990

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Background

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was created in 1949 as a post-WWII effort to create a defense alliance to deter Soviet expansion into Western Europe. When the Cold War began, NATO served as the primary form of Soviet deterrence for the West, utilizing the strategy of containment of communism. The Soviets retaliated by forming the Warsaw Pact including Eastern European nations to create their own alliance, thickening the Cold War plot.

The Cold War ended with no actual fighting, slightly easing US-Russia tensions, but maintaining a stark divide between Western and Eastern Europe. In the 1980s, Mikhail Gorbachev was rising through the ranks of the Russian communist party, becoming Soviet leader and implementing reform initiatives to rebuild the USSR and further align the nation with Western advancements. Despite these efforts, the Soviet system was collapsing.

Despite these efforts, the Soviet system was collapsing.

The newfound lack of Soviet power allowed nations in Eastern Europe to revolt and gain their independence, sending them each down a long, violent fight between communism and democracy. By the end of 1989, the Berlin Wall had fallen, marking an end to the Soviet era.

The enemy NATO was built to combat had been diminished; European security, however, was still very much at stake. Communism and the Warsaw Pact were collapsing, leaving those Eastern European nations in power vacuums, leaving them victim to fall back into their fate.

It was up to NATO to decide how to handle these recent changes. The 1989 Brussels Summit helped establish NATO support for political change across Eastern Europe in favor of democracy, and the Turnberry meeting allowed the West to extend their “hand of friendship” towards Warsaw Pact members, setting the stage for the London Summit.

The drastic shifts throughout Europe left the organization with many issues to debate in London. The collapse of the Berlin Wall meant German reunification was on the horizon, with the West wanting a stronger Germany but the USSR hesitant of the nation being a threat to their security.

Entering the Summit, NATO has lots to debate. Will they extend greater aid to Eastern Europe to help build democracy, or will they stay out of the conflict? Will they allow a reunited Germany into the organization? How will NATO modernize and adapt to fit into this new-era, now that the post-Cold War era is over? Who will emerge as a leading power in NATO, and who will let their voice be spoken over? And the greatest debate of all: will Eastern European nations be offered membership? Delegates will face each and every one of these questions, allowing them to rewrite history.





Timeline

Road to London: A NATO in Transition

End of the Cold War Order

By the end of the 1980s, seismic political shifts had begun to tear down the order that defined Europe post WW2. Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost and perestroika reforms introduced openness that profoundly changed domestic and international relations. In Eastern Europe, Warsaw Pact states faced popular uprisings, negotiated transitions, and collapsing communist parties. The speed of the transformation stunned Western leaders on what had once seemed immovable was dissolving in real time. For NATO, an alliance built to deter Soviet aggression, the central strategic question became not how to confront Moscow, but what to do when the threat it was created to oppose was rapidly disappearing

Revolutions in the East

In 1989, communist governments across Eastern Europe toppled in succession. Poland legalized Solidarity and held semi-free elections; Hungary opened its borders; East Germany saw hundreds of thousands protest, leading up to the fall of the Berlin Wall; Czechoslovakia experiencing the Velvet Revolution under Vaclav Havel; Bulgaria and Romania ousted their long standing leaders through internal pressure and bloodshed. Each collapse unraveled the old security architecture of Europe as former Warsaw Pact states sought recognition, assistance, and guarantee that their transitions wouldn't provoke Soviet crackdowns.

German Unification Debate

Nowhere were the stakes higher than in Germany. The prospect of unifying East and West Germany both excited European leaders and alarmed Moscow. The superpowers navigated the issue through "2 + 4" talks on balancing German sovereignty with allied security interests. Central to the negotiations was the fate of a unified Germany in NATO.

While Chancellor Helmut Kohl pushed firmly for continued NATO membership, Gorbachev signaled cautious openness but demanded assurances such as military deployments, alliance enlargement, and the future of Soviet forces in East Germany. Throughout 1990, all parties watched closely as a unified Germany might redefine the balance of power in Europe.

A Shrinking Warsaw Pact

The upheaval in the Soviet sphere exposed deep cracks within the Warsaw Pact. Once crucial for Soviet control, the alliance's meetings became arenas for Eastern European leaders to go their separate ways. Many denounced the Brezhnev Doctrine and renounced military intervention as a tool of socialist solidarity. The rapid disintegration prompted speculation over the pact's viability and whether NATO would follow. Yet while the Warsaw Pact weakened, NATO found renewed relevance as the West's political forum for managing the peaceful end of the Cold War.



NATO's Identity Crisis

The changing landscape forced NATO leaders to confront uncomfortable questions about purpose. Should NATO remain a strictly military alliance, or adapt into a broader political institution? Could it engage reforming Warsaw Pact states without provoking the USSR? Would a post containment NATO require new missions, doctrines, or partners? Public opinion and parliamentary debates across Western Europe reflected some uncertainty: some argued that NATO's continued existence risk angering Moscow, while others maintained the alliance was necessary to ensure democratic transitions and a stable Europe. The absence of a clear adversary didn't make NATO obsolete, but made the future more ambiguous.

Signals from Moscow

Gorbachev's diplomatic endeavours further complicated NATO where his speeches and diplomatic exchanges, he called for cooperation, demilitarization, and a "common European home". While cautiously optimistic, NATO capitals remained skeptical of Moscow's long term intentions and the durability of Soviet reforms. Even though Soviet military presence has diminished, is still significant and anxieties persisted about coups or reactionary forces seeking to

Reverse liberalization. Nonetheless, dialogue became the new norm with the Western leaders, exploring confidence building measures, arms reductions, and other channels for political engagement with the USSR and former adversaries.

Towards a New NATO

By 1990, the alliance faced a historic inflection point. Rather than dissolving, NATO moved toward reinvention. This summit is an opportunity to signal transformation of collective security, not abandonment. Draft proposals centered on reducing nuclear and conventional postures, opening political contact with the Warsaw Pact, and committing to democratic values as the cornerstone of future European security. At the same time, disagreements persisted over the pace and scope of change with some states cautiously adjusting and others urging bolder outreach.

The Present Situation

As NATO leaders prepare to meet in London in July 1990, uncertainty hangs over Europe's future. The USSR remains intact but fragile; the Warsaw Pact exists but lacks coherence

Germany moves towards reunification under intense diplomatic scrutiny. For NATO, the summit represents both a test and an opportunity: the alliance must articulate a vision capable of managing a rapidly changing Europe without triggering backlash from Moscow or internal fractures among member states. Delegates must decide how boldly to reshape NATO's mission, posture, and partnerships in a world no longer defined by the Cold War. The decisions made in London may determine whether NATO emerges as an enduring political institution or as a relic of the past that may vanish in a sudden.





Committee Brief

For over four decades, NATO served as the cornerstone of Western defense against Soviet aggression. But with the Cold War thawing and communist regimes collapsing across Eastern Europe, the strategic logic that once justified the alliance appears to be increasingly uncertain. If NATO was built to deter the Soviet Union, what should become of it as the Soviet Union reforms, retrenches, or potentially dissolves entirely?

The 1990 London Summit stands at a crossroads for the alliance. Germany's reunification, the unraveling of the Warsaw Pact, and Gorbachev's proposals for a "common European home" have opened possibilities that were unthinkable just years before. However, these same developments raise anxieties in both the East and West from questions over borders, influence, military balance, and the durability of democratic transitions in these former Warsaw Pact members.

As NATO leaders debate new directives, doctrines, and missions, they must carefully manage relations with Moscow and avoiding destabilizing reforms that could undermine Europe's fragile peace.

Uncertainty extends beyond strategy and diplomacy to NATO's identity itself. Should the alliance remain first and foremost a military bulwark, or evolve into a political forum promoting democracy and cooperation? Can NATO offer partnership to former adversaries without provoking fears of encirclement in the Kremlin? And what becomes of collective security if the alliance's original adversary is no longer adversarial?

Although governments and NATO leadership will determine immediate policy, the broader international community's attitudes and expectations cannot be ignored. Allies, neutral states, and reforming Eastern European governments are closely watching how NATO will interpret this moment.



Committee Brief

Will NATO transform to meet a new global order? Will it retreat from European affairs and allow other institutions to shape security? Or will it overextend by seeking roles beyond its mandate?

Delegates must grapple with these dilemmas as they enter committee. Should NATO expand, reform, or restrain itself? What obligations with the USSR coexist with NATO's own preservation? And perhaps, and most importantly: what kind of Europe should NATO help build after the Cold War?



Your Goals

- Define NATO's strategic purpose in the emerging post-Cold War international order
- Establish a clear diplomatic framework for relations with the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact states during their political transitions
- Shape the terms and security implications of German reunification
- Determine whether NATO should adopt political, cooperative, or democratic-promotion dimensions beyond its traditional military mandate
- Reform alliance doctrine to account for reduced nuclear tensions and conventional force restructuring
- Preserve alliance unity while avoiding unnecessary provocation or destabilization in Eastern Europe
- Position NATO advantageously for long-term influence in Europe's future security architecture

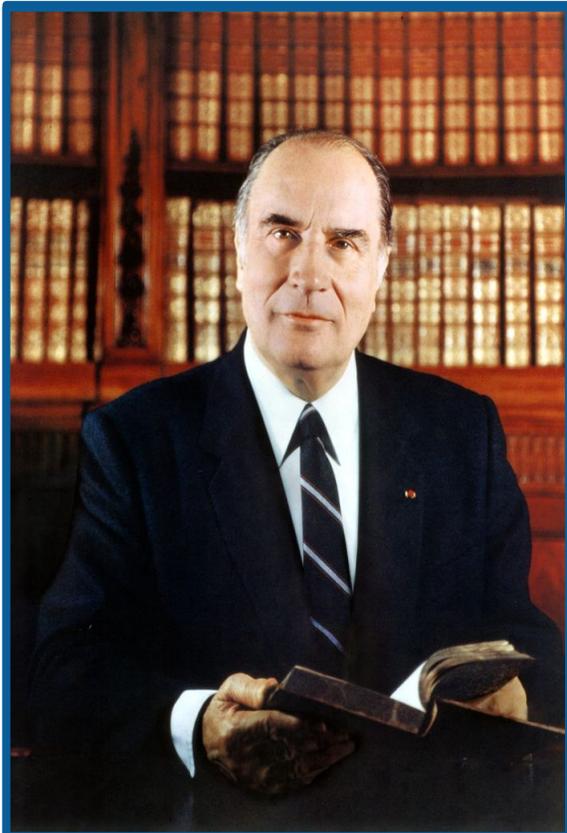


Characters



Helmut Kohl

- West German Chancellor
- NATO member
- Leader of Christian Democratic Union
- Very focused on reunification with East Germany
- Goals: emphasize that a unified Germany would be beneficial for NATO in a request for aid
- Wants to grow NATO into a stronger, more influential political body while maintaining a stable alliance with the USSR
- Supports Eastern European integration but is more concerned with his own nation



Francois Mitterrand

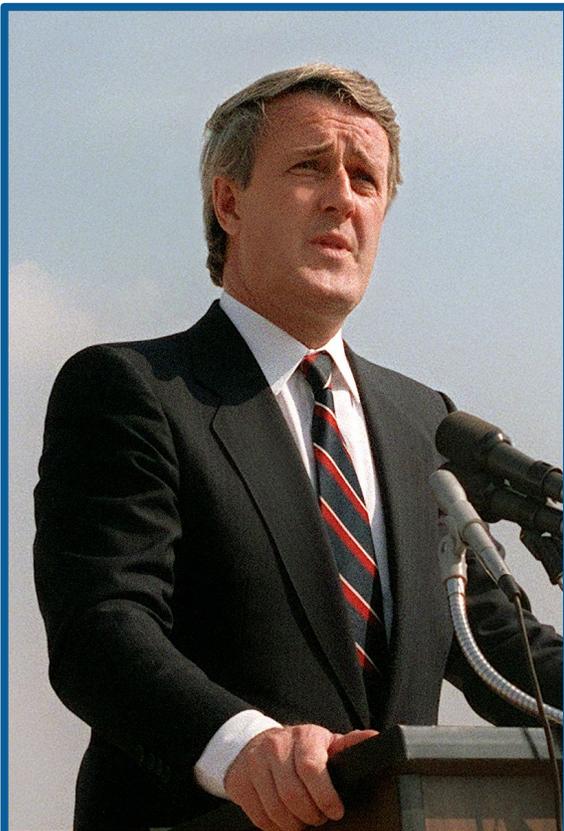
- President of France
- Strong advocate for aligning NATO nuclear strategies with the French Doctrine
- Wants to maintain strong French autonomy while also in favor of creating a stronger Europe and bridging divides between the USSR and the West
- Wants to prevent evolving NATO framework from further limiting sovereignty
- Strongly opposed to NATO expansion as it threatens French power
- Supports a more hierarchy based structure instead so other nations must rely on France

Characters



Mikhail Gorbachev

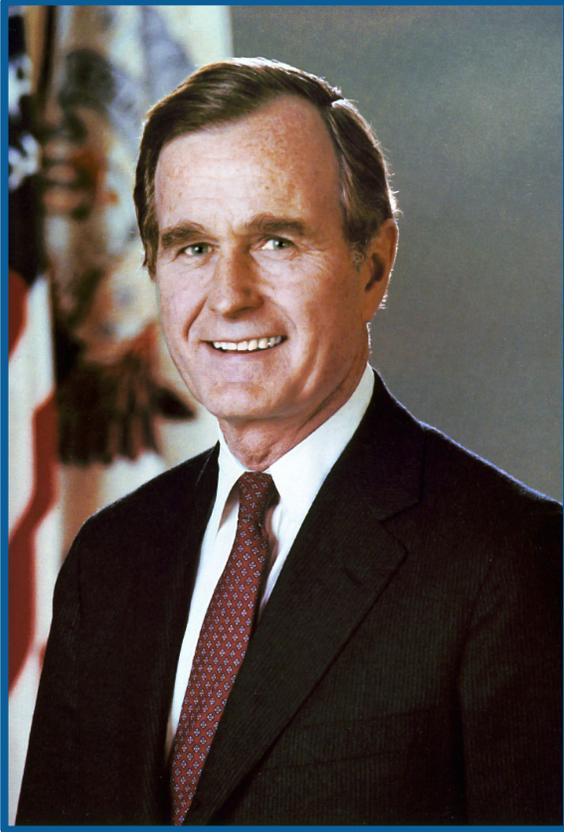
- Leader of USSR
- Wants to ease Soviet tensions with West
- Seeks aid from West to help USSR rebuild economic alliances and maintain peace
- At this time, nation is undergoing stark reform changes that Western support would make significantly easier
- Strongly against German reunification
- Strongly opposes NATO expansion into Eastern Europe, and is willing to retaliate if occurs as it is seen as a security threat



Brian Mulroney

- Canadian Prime Minister
- Plans to shift NATO away from a Cold War focus and create a stronger governing body
- Adapt NATO to new security threats so the alliance outlasts the Cold War
- Wants to aid in re-constructing post-Cold War Europe
- Supports Eastern Europe NATO integration as a way to oversee the democratic transition and prevent against future communist takeovers

Characters



George H. W. Bush

- US President
- Wants to redefine NATO as more prevalent on the global stage
- Pro- German reunification within NATO
- Goals: lead NATO and become the main unipolar influence within the body
- Move NATO away from Cold War while not decreasing power and relevance
- Supports sending outreach and aid to Eastern Europe
- Intends to integrate Eastern Europe into NATO as members



Margaret Thatcher

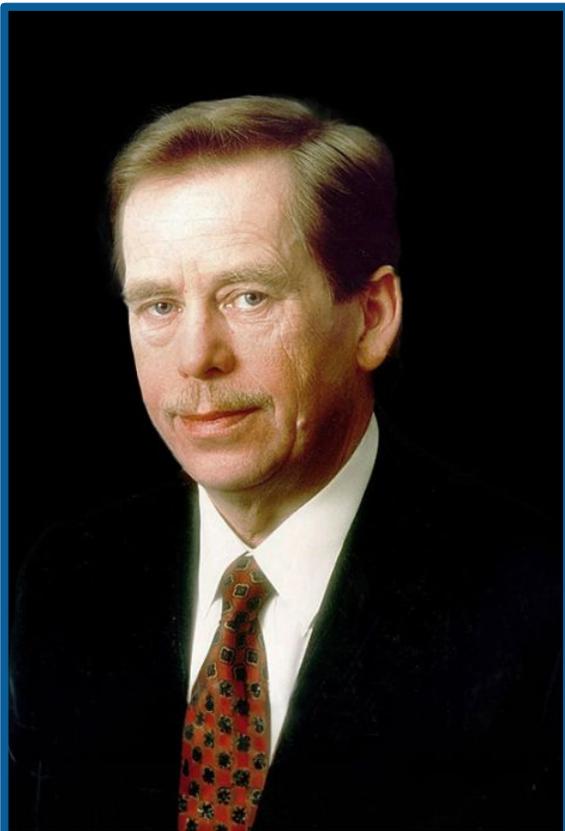
- Prime Minister of the UK
- Wants to create alliances with Eastern Europe and aid in reconstruction
- Supports NATO's transformation to fit the modern era
- Against such rapid changes to nuclear laws in effort to maintain strong British position
- Intends to maintain former connections as well as expanding influence
- Opposes rapid NATO expansions in fear of instability

Characters



Giulio Andreotti

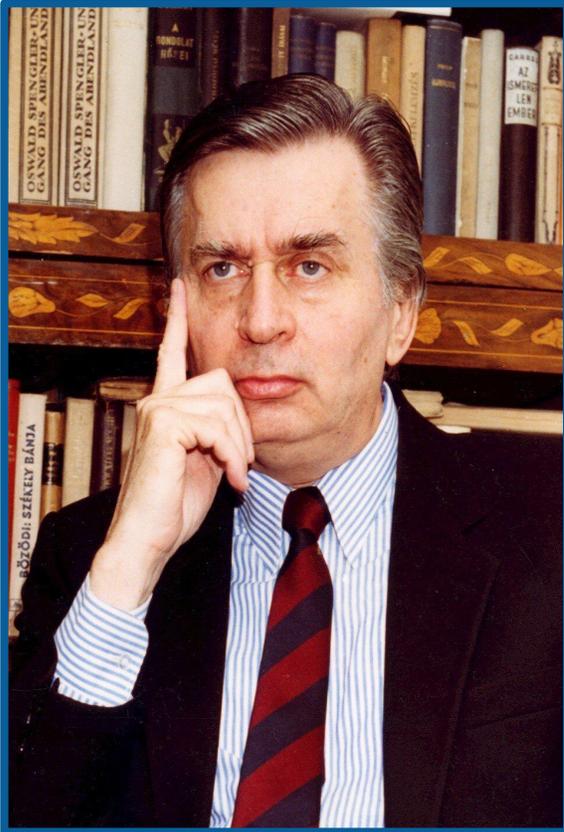
- Prime Minister of Italy
- NATO member
- Supports NATO's transformation to fit modern era
- Wants increased European cooperation
- Create more Italian alliances with focuses on security and stability
- Maintain NATO's relevance
- Anti- NATO expansion to the East as a security compromise



Vaclav Havel

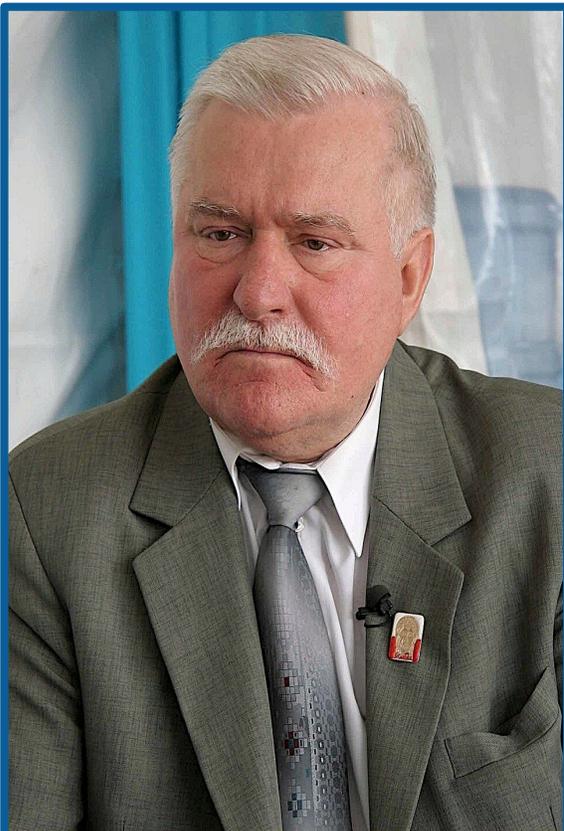
- President of Czechoslovakia
- Increase ties between new Eastern European democracies
- Open to ties with NATO members if security guarantees included
- Intends to anchor new democracy in more stable nations and frameworks
- Wants to be integrated into NATO ASAP for stronger security guarantees

Characters



Jozsef Antall

- Prime Minister of Hungary
- New Democratic leader, nation is undergoing vast government shifts
- Dismantle Warsaw Pact
- Wants stronger Western alliances and to be protected from Russia
- Strongly supports being added as a NATO member
- Intends to pass initiatives to be considered “part of the West”



Lech Walesa

- First democratic leader of Poland, shifted nation away from communism
- Advocate for strong security guarantees for whole Eastern European region
- Wants to integrate into NATO once Western alliances have been established and it is clear Poland is safe from future Soviet influence
- Willing to strongly push for NATO membership and Western aid, and retaliate if not received

Characters



Petar Mladenov

- Bulgarian President
- Intends to resign soon, so his actions will have little consequence on his career and life
- Currently shifting national policy towards Western alliances while slowly adapting to democracy
- Pro-engagement with all of Europe, East and West
- Intends to leave lasting foreign policy legacy



Ion Iliescu

- President of Romania
- Context: Romania just underwent a violent revolution in 1989, overthrowing communism and implementing Iliescu as leader
- Intends to create ties with West and strengthen his own democracy with aid from others
- Balancing internal reform with matters of international security
- Supports cautious, slow integration with West, but opposes becoming a NATO state or any of Eastern Europe integrating too rapidly

Characters



Wilfried Martins

- Prime Minister of Belgium
- Supports NATO's evolution into modern day
- Increasing Western security alliances through collective defense
- Pro- integrating Eastern European nations into NATO to expand the organization



Poul Schluter

- Denmark Prime Minister
- Aims to take NATO away from post- Cold War era and into modern day
- Maintains commitment to collective security
- Supports sending aid to new democracies to help in transition from communism
- Very very hesitant on adding newly developed governments to NATO

Characters



Vigdís Finnbogadóttir

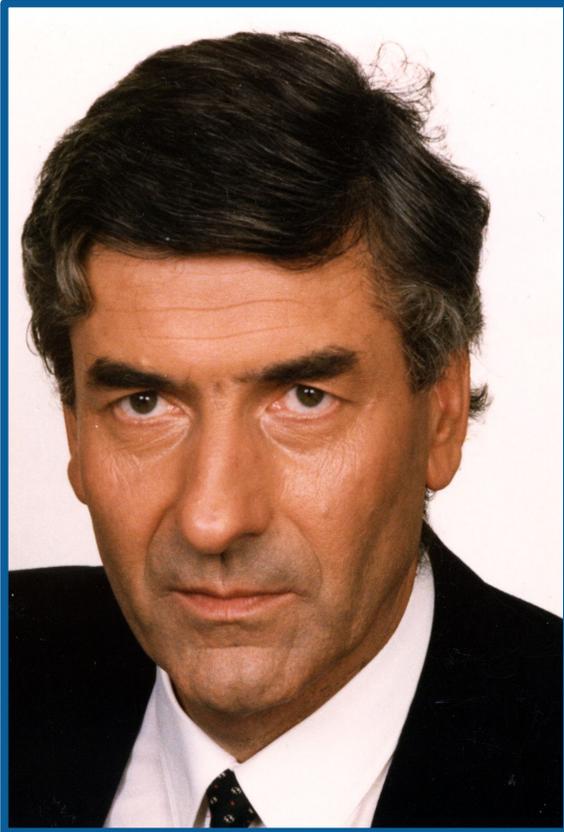
- Leader of Iceland
- First democratically elected female president in world
- Intends to uphold Iceland's role in NATO
- Aims to contribute to alliance for defense mechanisms
- Avoids militarization and military involvements
- Promote advancement of NATO while strategically hiding Iceland's grand strategy
- Anti-NATO expansion due to philosophy that NATO should focus on transformation before enlargement



Jacques Santer

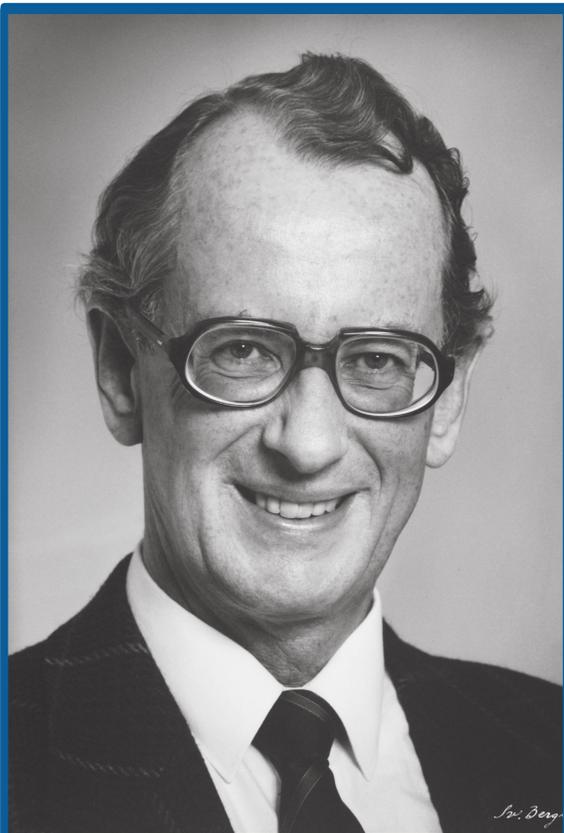
- Prime Minister of Luxembourg
- Pro NATO- adaptation while maintaining collective defense
- Open to political ties with Eastern Europe
- Wants to increase NATO's global role
- Is open to Eastern European nations becoming members of NATO in future years, but is strongly opposed to such rapid integration

Characters



Ruud Lubbers

- Prime Minister of the Netherlands
- Pro- NATO adaptation
- Open to forming strong alliances and having discussions with Eastern Europe
- Intends to enhance Dutch involvement at summit and on a global scale in shaping new world security
- Pro Eastern Europe integration into NATO as members



Jan P. Syse

- Prime Minister of Norway
- Facing re-election shortly, so it is imperative to listen to Norwegian public, who are keen to open to new trade markets
- Wants to increase NATO flexibility regarding Eastern Europe while maintaining Norwegian security

Characters



Mario Soares

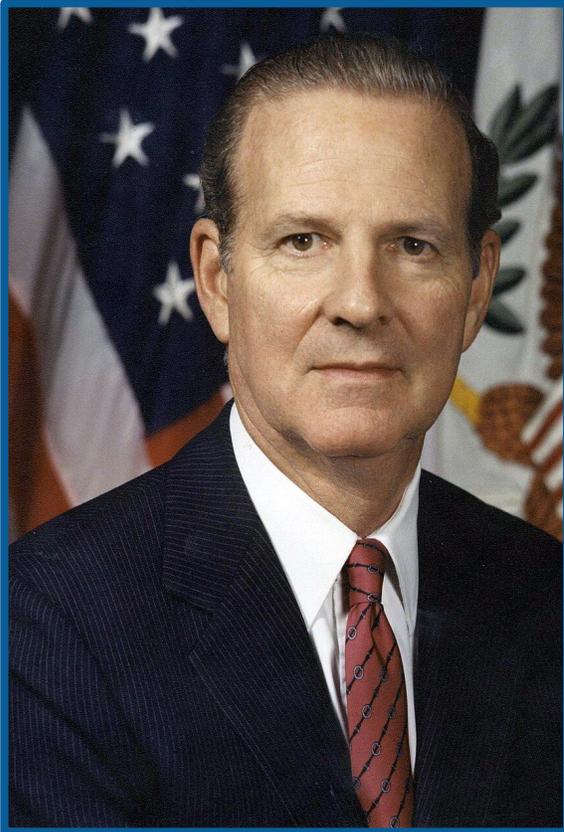
- Leader of Portugal
- Pro- NATO adaptation
- Open to discussion with Eastern Europe
- Maintain Portugal's role in NATO while expanding to be more prevalent in major matters
- Favors adding other Western European nations to NATO, but not Eastern European nations
- Willing to send aid to support new democracies, but in small increments



Felipe Gonzalez

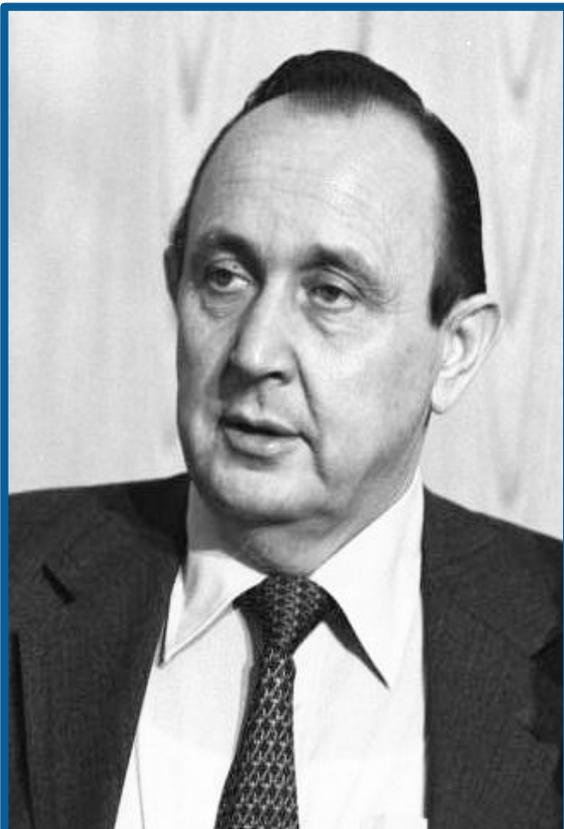
- Prime Minister of Spain
- Supports a modernized NATO away from post-Cold War era
- Intends to increase political cooperation among all nations
- Goal: strengthen Spain's role in NATO and create lasting legacy on world stage
- Supports sending NATO aid to Eastern Europe and integrating nations into NATO

Characters



James Baker

- US Secretary of State
- Reassure US diplomatic role in NATO's evolving role
- Pro- NATO transformation, and intends to be a negotiator in influencing more representatives to agree to a modernized NATO
- Believes Germany should reunify, and intends to decrease Soviet concerns
- Supports Eastern European engagement, aid, and integration into NATO as members as well as other post-communist states



Hans-Dietrich Genscher

- West German Foreign Minister
- Intends to aid in achieving a collective agreement to modernize NATO
- Wants full support for German reunification without Soviet repercussions
- Intends to form strong allies with Eastern Europe
- Supports Eastern European integration in NATO, but firmly believes it needs to happen long after the London Summit

Characters



Manfred Wörner

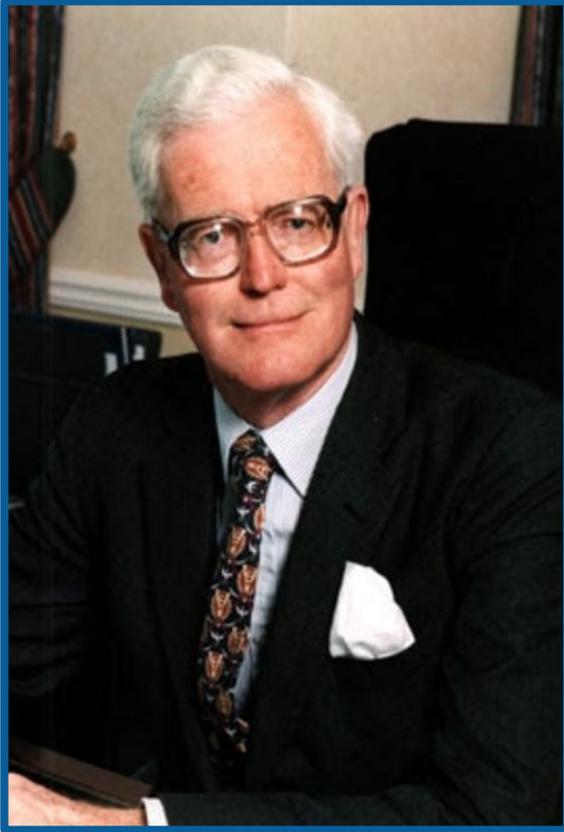
- NATO Secretary General
- Chief diplomat and facilitator of consensus among member states
- All NATO matters must have Wörner signature in order to be effectively carried out with NATO support and resources
- Strong advocate of opening NATO alliance to Eastern Europe



Roland Dumas

- French Foreign Minister
- Intends to keep French security defenses within NATO ties while maintaining independent foreign defense policies
- Wants to prevent evolving NATO framework from further limiting sovereignty
- Pro- autonomous defense policy
- Anti- NATO expansion
- Pro- dissolving NATO to create a European security alliance instead

Characters



Douglas Hurd

- British Foreign Minister
- Supports Thatcher's caution of nuclear redefinition so rapidly
- Wants to maintain deterrence while adapting to future globalization
- Cautious about expanding NATO too fast in fear of creating instability

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