

U.S. COMMITTEE TO EXPAND NATO

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NATO ENLARGEMENT Security, Prosperity & Freedom

NATO enlargement has been called "the most far reaching U.S. foreign policy initiative since the end of the Cold War" for good reason. It represents an historic opportunity to expand security, peace, prosperity and freedom across Europe in a way that increases American security, expands American prosperity, and reinforces American freedom.

Nearly 50 years ago, twelve nations came together with a commitment stated clearly in the preamble of the North Atlantic Treaty, to "safeguard the freedom, common heritage, and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law." Those twelve nations grew to 16 and today, NATO enlargement offers this commitment and its promise of security, prosperity and freedom to the nations of Central and Eastern Europe.

NATO membership remains the best guarantee of European peace. NATO no longer draws its strength from a common enemy but from a shared vision of a secure, prosperous and peaceful future. It is a military alliance, but it is and always has been much more, as Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, wrote in *The New York Times* (May 13, 1997): "It must see itself as a guarantor of Euro-American civilization and thus as a pillar of global security."

Security

NATO is a military alliance offering a collective defense against military threats. There is a continuing need for this most effective military alliance in history. The threats to U.S. security are as real as war in the former Yugoslavia, rampant terrorism, and the spread of nuclear weapons. In 1989, we were told the Cold War was over. Two years later, America was in the Persian Gulf with the largest deployment of U.S. troops since 1945.

NATO enlargement will strengthen NATO's collective defense capability by expanding the number of countries willing to work together and defend each other for a more stable Europe.

We are already seeing the contributions that nations such as Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic can make. They were with us in the Gulf War. Their soldiers joined NATO forces in Bosnia. Hungary even provided military bases. They are working to expand democratic principles and respect for human rights. They are contributing to the security and stability of Europe.

History shows that, when uncertainty and instability prevail, conflict follows. NATO enlargement offers increased stability and security. And a stronger, broader alliance in NATO makes the threat of force more compelling while making it less likely NATO will need to actually use that force.

Prosperity

History also has shown that security and prosperity are inseparable. American leadership brought the Marshall Plan to help rebuild a postwar Europe. NATO, since its founding, has helped secure the peace that made prosperity possible. Enlarging NATO can help the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe work toward both security and prosperity, expanded trade, increased investment, and economic growth.

The prospect of NATO membership already is giving rise to new regional agreements contributing to increased, long term security in the region. That security is essential to growing businesses and jobs and to sustaining the practices of a market economy. Already, Central and Eastern Europe are growing faster than much of the rest of Europe as nations move from the economic constraints of communism toward free markets.

Increased stability, increased security and political democracy, and free markets will make Central and Eastern Europe an increasingly important trading and business partner for American exporters and investors. These nations are growing at 4 to 5 percent annually in real terms and our exports to the region are increasing by double digit rates. State industries are being privatized. Infrastructure is improving. Well-educated workers are eager for jobs. Demand is increasing from everything from computer chips to home furnishings, creating valuable opportunities for American businesses.

NATO enlargement will help preserve the security central to bring prosperity and growth for Europe and the United States. Half a century ago, NATO helped bring stability, security and economic growth to Western Europe. Today, an enlarged NATO can do the same for Central and Eastern Europe, ensuring that the region's strong economic growth is sustained and free market democracies are fostered.

Freedom

Twice in this century Americans have crossed an ocean and given their lives to defend freedom. Twice in this century, Europe has been devastated by world war and then divided by Cold War. America has invested heavily: more than a half million lives; more than \$13 trillion. We have received much in return; security, prosperity, peace. It is time once again to invest in freedom to preserve that security, prosperity and peace.

NATO enlargement will bring into the alliance nations that share our values and our dreams. Their struggle against totalitarianism offers an impressive historical example of commitment to independence and freedom. Hungarian freedom fighters died heroically in 1956. The Prague Spring in 1968 offered the hope of freedom only to be crushed by Soviet tanks. Solidarity in Poland waged a decade-long campaign for freedom that found success in the events of 1989. Few countries on earth have bled more for their freedom.

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe should not be punished because history left them on the wrong side of the Cold War line between freedom and tyranny.