



MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION



Abdullah Bin Zayed and Kouchner Deliver

Speeches at the Maritime Security Conference

Abu Dhabi – 25th of May 2009

Under the Joint Presidential Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, and with the support of the UAE and French Navies, and on the occasion of the inauguration of the French Naval and Support Base (Peace Camp), the Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis (INEGMA) launched today the Maritime Security Conference, at the Armed Forces Officers' Club – Abu Dhabi.

The two day event was attended at the opening by a crowd of political military leaders and diplomats from the UAE, France, the Gulf countries, and abroad.

The first day included an opening session and two plenary sessions and a series of closed workshops on specific maritime issues.

Opening Session

The opening session started with video documentary that stressed on the importance of this conference in order to face future challenges. Mr. Riad Kahwaji, CEO of INEGMA, followed with a brief welcoming speech. He emphasized that the need to seek partners is an ongoing process as demonstrated by today and tomorrow's events. Mr. Kahwaji explained that the sea lanes are shared and it is important to exchange ideas.

The first key speaker, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, the UAE foreign minister, welcomed the attending delegates in the UAE and explained that the UAE seeks continuous development of defense and strategic relations with other states because of the many security threats represented by ACPAK, Iran and the prospects for Middle East peace. One major point of the new relationship between the UAE and France is an MOU that will allow UAE diplomats to work in French embassies. Renewable and reliable nuclear energy and transparency surround these issues are paramount.

His Excellency Dr. Bernard Kouchner, Foreign Minister of the French Republic delivered the second keynote speech. He argued that the relationship between France and UAE had reached a new level via an air, ground, and water presence. All these contribute to maritime security. The threats to the region including the spread of North Korean nuclear missile technology, Iran, and piracy, present major problems but can be successfully dealt with. In regards to piracy, relations with Djibouti and



Yemen will help stop piracy as well as the flow of illegal immigrants which is the interest to both countries.

First Plenary Session: Global and Regional Maritime Security

The first plenary session on “The Global and Regional Maritime Security” was chaired by Dr. Theodore Karasik, INEGMA’s Director of Research and Development. He stated that the importance of understanding the current state of play is critical in the regional context and how the evolution of threats challenges mariners and policymakers alike. He then introduced the three speakers.

M. Olivier Darrason, Chairman of IHEDN (Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Défense Nationale) spoke on the French vision of global geopolitical challenges running down a list of global issues as they pertained to France and noted the synergies with the UAE including defending the UAE from any strategic threat.

H.E. Dr. Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, UAE lectured on “A Regional Approach to Strategic Partnerships.” This briefing summarized the threats to the UAE on a number of levels from the perspective of Abu Dhabi and the need to understand the bilateral (GCC) and multilateral (GCC) relationships developing in the wake of Iraq.

Admiral Luciano Zappata, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, NATO gave a briefing on “Developing Strategic Partnerships to Enhance Regional Security.” In this speech, Admiral Zappata eloquently explained the role for NATO in the Gulf region, why it is well suited for such a role historically, and now next steps can be taken based on the new strategic environment.

Second Plenary Session: Key Factors of a Maritime Safety and Security Strategy

The Second Plenary Session, moderated by General (R’td) Khalid Abdullah Al Buainnan, former Commander, UAE Air Force and Defense, and now President of INEGMA, addressed the “Key Factors of a Maritime Safety and Security Strategy.” He stated that the safety and security issues fall clearly under the new agreements specifically the permanent French base in the UAE and that a further drilldown on key issues is warranted at this juncture in order to move forward in this blossoming relationship.

Mr. Michel Miraillet, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, France explained “The French Comprehensive Approach.” Miraillet argued that the Mediterranean and the Gulf are more vulnerable today than ever and that a public service mission is now warranted. Intelligence sharing is more critical now in order to understand the domestic and external threat factors. The concept for France is to grow in the region as a supporter of peace and security. All the seas are connected to what happens in the Gulf outwards.



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Staff Colonel Pilot H.E. Saeed bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Director Operations and Training, UAE Armed Forces explained the UAE point of view. He stated that oil and gas security are very important and more cooperation is needed with many different countries—France being one of the keys. Professional security and military operations are needed to insure the smooth flow of commerce.

Vice Admiral William Gortney, Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command, Commander, Fifth Fleet illustrated “Developing a Collective Maritime Security Strategy: Needs and Goals.” From his viewpoint the environment today involves a number of operational issues such as ACPAK, Somalia, Iran, and Iraq. Under his command exists CTF 150, 152, and 151 which all support maritime security operations in different parts of the Area of Operations. All of these CTFs seek to illuminate peace thru strength and the power to respect the rule of law. The need for the creation of a joint architecture for meaningful operations is a primary goal. After the lunch break, four simultaneous closed workshops took place, where specialists from all over the world discussed the issues of “Piracy,” “Security and Safety of Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs),” “Terrorism and Asymmetric Threats,” “Illegal Maritime Activities - Goods & Human Trafficking,” “Pollution, Environmental Disasters, and Preserving Fishing Maritime Resources: International and Regional Challenges.”

The Maritime Security conference will have on Tuesday two plenary sessions, entitled “Technology and Cooperation” and “The Way Ahead,” followed by closed workshops that will discuss “Maritime Intelligence (Surveillance and Information Exchange),” “New Technologies: Impact on Maritime Challenges – Industrial Implications, Joint Ventures, and Civil Companies,” “Disaster Relief: Search & Rescue Operations & Role of Naval Assets in Aid Missions,” “Energy, Oil and Gas Geopolitical and Economical Challenges – Gulf Cooperation Council & Europe,” and “International Security Organizations: Local, Sub-Regional, Regional and International.”

INEGMA is a self-financed establishment that offers research analysis and consultancy, events organization, and PR and Marketing Consultancy in the fields of defense, security and geo-politics. It is committed to offering a unique and first-class quality service to the public and private sectors. INEGMA will always ensure that its services make a positive contribution to regional and international security and stability. It aims at enhancing awareness and knowledge about defense and strategic issues amongst the peoples and leaders of the Middle East region. INEGMA is based in Dubai Media City and has offices in the Lebanese Capital Beirut.