MEETING PROGRAM

THE LEGACY OF THE REYKJAVÍK SUMMIT

An inspiration for arms control and reducing tensions today?

10 – 11 October 2016
Höfði House, Reykjavík
On 11 and 12 October 1986, the President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan, and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, met in the capital of Iceland, Reykjavík, to discuss a radical plan: reduction of nuclear-armed missiles and a move towards a nuclear free world. The meeting was a breakthrough in relations between the USSR and the United States, and is widely considered as the beginning of the end of the Cold War.

Thirty years later, tensions between Russia and the West are at their highest since the Cuban Missile Crisis. Instability in other parts of the world, like the Middle East and the South China Sea, is also creating new risks, and leading to a new arms race.

Can the anniversary of that historic meeting at the Höfði House in Reykjavík thirty years ago provide an inspiration to de-escalate tensions between NATO and Russia? Can it help to promote non-proliferation, and reignite the hope of a nuclear free world? These are issues that the International Peace Institute (IPI) would like to discuss at a high-level meeting in Reykjavík. Participants will include former and current diplomats, arms control experts, historians, and representatives of civil society.
18:00 – 20:00 Welcome reception hosted by City of Reykjavík

Welcome remarks:

Dagur B. Eggertsson  
Mayor of Reykjavík City (host)

Lilja Alfreðsdóttir  
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Iceland

Terje Rod-Larsen  
President, International Peace Institute

Presentation:

Ken Adelman  
Author of Reagan at Reykjavik — Forty-Eight Hours that Ended the Cold War, Former Director of the U.S. Arms Control Agency for President Ronald Reagan during the 1986 Reykjavik summit

Opening statements:

Mikhail Gorbachev  
President of the Soviet Union in 1990–1991 (via video)

George P. Shultz  
United States Secretary of State under Reagan in 1982-1989 (via video)
08:30 – 10:00 The impact and legacy of the Reykjavik Summit

By the mid-1980s, the superpowers had accumulated enough nuclear weapons to destroy the planet several times over. They were positioned in a posture of mutually assured destruction. However, to the surprise of many, when Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev met in Reykjavik thirty years ago, they discussed stopping the nuclear arms race and even eliminating nuclear weapons. In hindsight, what was the significance and impact of the Reykjavik Summit? What lessons can be learned for today?

Chairperson: __________________________

David Holloway
Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Discussants: __________________________

Ken Adelman
Author of Reagan at Reykjavik — Forty-Eight Hours that Ended the Cold War, Former Director of the U.S. Arms Control Agency for President Ronald Reagan during the 1986 Reykjavik summit

Sergey Batsanov
Director, Geneva Office, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs; Former Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in 1989-1993

Jack Matlock Jr.
Rubenstein Fellow at Duke University, American Former Ambassador, served as U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1987 to 1991

Pavel Palazhchenko
Head of International and Media Relations, Gorbachev Foundation; Principal English Interpreter for Mikhail Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze, 1985-1991

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break
10:30 – 12:00 Security and cooperation today: how to recapture the spirit of Reykjavík?

More than twenty-five years after the end of the Cold War, tensions between Russia and the West are high. What steps can be taken to de-escalate tensions, de-militarize relations, and return to diplomacy? On what issues can the parties find some common ground, and can a more constructive spirit be created? If high-level dialogue was possible in 1986 during the Cold War, what would it take to enhance dialogue today?

Chairperson:  
Walter Kemp  
Senior Vice President, International Peace Institute

Discussants:  
Valur Ingimundarson  
Professor of Contemporary History, University of Iceland

Christian Strohal  
Ambassador, Special Representative Austria’s OSCE-2017 Chairmanship

Lamberto Zannier  
Secretary General, OSCE

12:00 – 14:30 Lunch (Bjortuloft, Harpa Conference Centre)

Keynote remarks:  
Guðni Th. Jóhannesson  
President of Iceland
14:30 – 16:00 Back to the future: restarting arms control and a nuclear free world

The nuclear arms race has not stopped. Proliferation and testing continue. Yet many leaders have pledged to promote a nuclear free world. How is it possible to recapture the “spirit of Reykjavik”? What are the obstacles and opportunities towards a world free of nuclear weapons? What steps could be taken to move closer to this objective?

Chairperson:

Scott D. Sagan
Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies; Senior Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation Caroline S.G. Munro Professor of Political Science

Discussants:

Vladimir Dvorkin
Russia’s Leading Expert on strategic nuclear forces, missile defense, and military space issues, Lead Scientist at the Center of the International Safety of the Institute of Economic and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences

Vladimir Orlov
Head, Center for Global Trends and International Organizations, Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; Founder and Special Advisor, PIR Center; Member, UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

Thomas M. Countryman
Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of International Security and Non-Proliferation, US Department of State

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break
16:30 – 18:00 The road ahead

Based on this meeting in Reykjavik, and inspired by the example of the meeting thirty years ago, what policy-oriented steps can be taken to reduce tensions, improve dialogue, restart talks on arms control, and move towards a nuclear weapons-free world?

Chairperson:

Terje Rod-Larsen
President, International Peace Institute

Discussants:

Des Browne
British Labour Party politician; Vice Chairman, Nuclear Threat Initiative

Jayantha Dhanapala

Alain Le Roy
Former Secretary General, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Alexey Obukhov
Former Deputy Foreign Minister, USSR; Expert, Second European Department (2ED), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russia

18:00 – 18:15 Concluding remarks