



Center for Strategic & International Studies
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CANADIAN COOPERATION IN AFGHANISTAN

A Dialogue with Major General Andrew Leslie, Former Deputy Commander International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan

April 20, 2004

CSIS' Canada Project and the Transnational Threats Initiative hosted Major General Andrew Leslie, former Deputy Commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, on April 20, 2004. Participants included over 50 senior policy officials and international delegates.

Leslie was promoted to Major General in June 2003, and assumed the responsibilities of Deputy Commander of ISAF in August 2003. He has served in the Canadian Forces for 27 years. He held positions as Director General Information Management Operational Strategic Division, Commander of 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, United Nations Chief of Staff Sector South in the former Yugoslavia (brigade level), Chief of Staff United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO, division level), and as Chief of Staff of United Nations Peace Forces/Military Liaison Advisory Team (mission level).

Major-General Andrew Leslie returned to Canada in February 2004 following a six-month assignment in Afghanistan as Deputy Commander of ISAF and Commander of Task Force Kabul. ISAF was sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council (UNSCR 1386) on Dec. 20, 2001, to work closely with the United Nations and the Afghan interim government. Its mission is to aid the interim government in developing national security structures, to assist in the country's reconstruction program, and to develop and train future Afghan security forces.

Major Leslie discussed Canadian participation in ISAF's mission and provided insight into the cultural, social, political, and geographic issues faced in the region, as well as how relations were fostered in the country to ensure the success of their mission.