
Legislatures In Three Countries ... To See Details On North American Union

By Paul Likoudis

As Washington think tanks go, there is probably none so high-powered, so connected to the international corporate and government elites as K-Street's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), whose board of directors is headed by former Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn.

The board, in fact, reads like a who's who of the military-industrial complex.

The CSIS board members include former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Assistant Secretary of State Richard Armitage, former Defense Secretaries William Cohen and James R. Schlesinger, the top executives from Exxon-Mobile and *Time* magazine and financier Felix Rohatyn, among a host of other CEOs in the world of high finance, defense, and energy.

The president and CEO of CSIS is Dr. John Hamre, who served as the 26th U.S. deputy secretary of defense from 1997 to 1999. Prior to holding that post, he was the undersecretary of defense (comptroller) from 1993 to 1997. The CSIS web site states in its bio of Hamre that "as comptroller, Dr. Hamre was the principal assistant to the secretary of defense for management improvement programs and for the preparation, presentation, and execution of the defense budget" — a period when, according to former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, the Pentagon could not account for \$3 trillion in expenses.

Before going to the Pentagon, Hamre worked on the Senate Armed Services Committee for ten years where he specialized in defense budget issues.

And so, when CSIS reports that it has convened a number of working groups to study all the issues related — in contemporary parlance — to disappearing the borders that separate the

United States from Canada and Mexico, and will submit to the legislatures of the three countries its proposals to join the three countries into one political, economic, and security bloc this September, one should salute their respective countries goodbye.

CSIS's "North American Future 2025 Project" was headed up by Mexican staff member Armand B. Peschard-Sverdrup, who released a report in late April detailing the work of the study group and its proposals to create a highly bureaucratic European Union-style North America superstate that would be able to compete economically and militarily with India and China for control over trade and resources.

In the "summary," Peschard-Sverdrup informs the backers of the North American Union project that: "The results of the study will enable policymakers to make sound, strategic, long-range policy decisions about North America, with an emphasis on regional integration.

"Specifically, the project will focus on a detailed examination of future scenarios, which are based on current trends, and involve six areas of critical importance to the trilateral relationship: labor mobility, energy, the environment, security, competitiveness, and border infrastructure and logistics."

Under the heading "Project Description," he informs: "In order to strengthen the capacity of Canadian, U.S., and Mexican administration officials and that of their respective legislatures to

analyze, comprehend, and anticipate North American integration, the CSIS North America Project proposes to carry out a series of seven closed-door roundtable sessions.

"To capture the very best thinking on the six issues that will be covered, each of the roundtable sessions will convene a combination of practitioners (from each respective administration and legislature); stakeholders (from the private sector and conceivably even labor unions); and highly specialized academics and analysts from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Limiting the number of participants to between 21 and 45 individuals — with an equal number from each nation — should allow for free-flowing and balanced discussion.

"Independent of these trilateral brainstorming sessions, the CSIS North

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America Project will conduct additional research and review the very latest published and unpublished works produced in all three countries. In the spirit of a North American partnership, the CSIS North America Project is receptive to collaborating with Canadian and Mexican research institutions. In Mexico, CSIS will be collaborating with the CIDE.

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"To adhere to the desired time line for this project, as well as to budgetary parameters, the North American Future 2025 project will derive its assumptions from existing projection scenarios, such as Mapping the Global Future: Report of the National Intelligence Council's

2020 Project; 'Dreaming With the BRICS: The Path to 2050,' a Goldman Sachs study issued in October 2003; relevant projection scenarios from Statistics Canada and Mexico's *Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática*; and the CSIS/Global Strategy Institute's own long-range forecasts conducted through the Seven Revolutions and Seven Futures Projects.

"The North American Future 2025 project will also examine relevant future-looking work dealing with each of the six topics upon which the three governments have agreed — namely, labor mobility, energy, the environment, security, competitiveness, and border infrastructure and logistics.

"The final deliverable will be a report on options and policy recommendations on the future of North American integration that will be presented in September 2007 to the executive and legislative branches of the three governments of North America. The report will be produced in the three official languages — English, Spanish, and French — as part of an effective dissemination strategy aimed at maximizing the policy impact of the report."

Among the various discussion groups assembled at various "roundtables," one includes government officials from Mexico, the United States, and Canada who will examine "where North America and other global regions currently stand in key sectors, such as trade, demographics, infrastructure, natural resources (that is, energy and water), and science and technology."

Another "roundtable" will study, and project from, trends on "the liberalization of trade and investment" and the "international migration of labor."

"Such changes in the global economy," the report states, "have led to the creation of a new international division of labor — the shifting labor markets that arise from changing the geo-

graphic specialization of global production patterns. Production now transcends national borders and is facilitated by advances in technology and communications as well as increased fi-

nancial deregulation. The changing global production system and the increasing demand for a mobile labor supply will inherently affect domestic and international labor markets and wages into the year 2025. . . .

"The free flow of people across national borders will undoubtedly continue throughout the world as well as in North America, as will the social, political, and economic challenges that accompany this trend. In order to remain competitive in the global economy, it is imperative for the 21st-century North American labor market to possess the flexibility necessary to meet industrial labor demands on a transitional basis and in a way that responds to market forces. This demand will prompt policymakers to think creatively about prospective policy options."

The third "roundtable" will consist of energy experts who will "develop policies that will secure the region's energy needs and allow it to remain competitive in the global arena. . . .

"The global demand for energy — not only oil, gas, and coal but also nuclear, hydropower, wind, and other renewable energy resources — will continue to increase in the 21st-century because of the growing global population and a predicted doubling of the global

economy. By the year 2030, it is estimated that energy consumption in China and India will be more than quadruple their 1990 level. Worldwide energy use is currently 205 million barrels per day of oil equivalent

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—*North American Future 2025 Project* (p. 4)

(MBDOE) and is projected to increase by 60% — to 335 MBDOE — in the year 2030. In 2005, the supply of conventional oil resources was estimated at 3.2 trillion barrels; when

nonconventional resources are included, the total is just above 4 trillion barrels.

"In terms of North American demand, even though Mexico, Canada, and the United States produce almost one-fourth of the world's energy, the region's population consumes a larger portion than it produces. Furthermore, North America is the only oil-producing region in the world that has exceeded its 50% production point.

"In order for North America to secure the energy resources and strategic networks needed to remain competitive in the global economy, policymakers must devise forward-looking, collaborative policies that integrate governments, the private sector, and stakeholders. To foster the development of such policies, CSIS will examine a wide array of energy issues, including, but not limited to, access to energy resources, development of energy-efficient and sustainable technologies, energy diversification, physical and cybernetic security of critical energy infrastructure, trade and investment laws and regulations, risk management, and environmental impacts. Trilateral coordination of energy policy is crucial to assuring North America's future competitiveness and regional security."

Water Issues

This roundtable will also examine issues related to the environment, such as climate change and growing pollution, especially that caused by a rapidly increasing "volume of transportation."

"It is widely recognized that changes in climate pose a threat to domestic economies, natural resources, and ecosystem functions. Even though agricultural sectors can be expected to

adapt well to the climate changes, other potential effects could arise and have an impact on North America. Canada, the United States, and Mexico could experience the loss of coastal wetlands, coastal erosion, water shortages, heat waves, droughts, tornadoes, flooding in coastal regions, an increased threat of pests and diseases, forest fires, and damage to water sources."

Water issues will be one of the biggest challenges facing decision-makers, for: "Fresh water is running out in many regions of the world — be it the water in rivers, lakes, basins, aquifers, or watersheds. Therefore, communities throughout the world will be seeking alternative water sources, and North America will by no means be exempt from this looming problem. North America, and particularly the United States and Mexico, will experience water scarcity as a result of arid climates coupled with growing populations and increased water consumption.

"Juxtaposed to the relative scarcity of water in the United States and Mexico, Canada possesses about 20% of the earth's fresh water. Cognizant that water will become a strategic resource, Canada's federal and provincial governments have undertaken measures to protect the nation's water supply. This task is particularly challenging, given that Canada and the United State share many basins along their border, such as the Great Lakes as well as multiple rivers. Because water availability, quality, and allocation are likely to undergo profound changes between 2006 and 2025, policymakers will benefit from a more proactive approach to exploring different creative solutions beyond the current transboundary water management agreements that the United States has reached with both Mexico and Canada.

"One such option could be regional agreements between Canada, the United States, and Mexico on issues such as water consumption, water transfers, artifi-

cial diversions of fresh water, water conservation technologies for agricultural irrigation, and urban consumption. . . .

"The three nations will have to overcome the bureaucratic challenges posed by their different political systems and legal regimes, particularly if the overriding future goal of North America is to achieve joint optimum utilization of the available water and to implement procedures that will help avoid or resolve differences over water in the face of ever-increasing pressures over this priceless resource."

This roundtable will further analyze the "the degradation of the North American ecosystem and the destruction of natural habitats are the most pervasive threats to biodiversity, as well as the consequences of an inevitable invasion of 'alien species' due to global trade.

"The introduction of non-native species (be they bacteria, viruses, fungi, insects, mollusks, plants, fish, mammals, or birds) can pose a threat to domestic and native species through predation, competition, parasitism, or hybridization. Consequently, introducing these spe-

cies can alter the equilibrium of the ecosystem. As a result, bioinvasions could cause damage to forests and agricultural and horticultural crops and can pose health risks to humans. Moreover, all these problems are accompanied by a high economic cost," the report states.

Roundtable Five is devoted to discussion of a "strategy to ensure the security of the region." Not only will North America be targeted by terrorists, drug-traffickers, and organized crime groups, but its security will be threatened by computer hackers who will be able to break into the systems that control the power grid, dams, etc., and also the weather:

"North America and the world will have to prepare to contend with threats emanating from weather-related disasters, which are likely to become more frequent and perhaps more intensive as a result of projected increases in green-

house gas emissions and global climate change. Natural disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery planning will become a priority for governments around the world."

This roundtable will also consider various health-related issues, such as the need to respond rapidly to a highly anticipated influenza outbreak, and the need to extend American-style health to Mexico where its demographic implosion will be filled by an increase of immigration from Central America.

One Superstate

Finally, the document states: "Whatever North American security architecture is ultimately conceptualized and agreed upon, it is clear that the protection of critical infrastructure will continue to be of foremost importance from the standpoint of protecting human life and ensuring national and North American economic stability.

"The critical infrastructure referred to here involves the following areas: agriculture, water, health and emergency services, energy (electrical, nuclear, hydro, and gas and oil), transportation systems (air, roads, rail, ports, and waterways), information and telecommunications networks, and banking and financial systems."

CSIS is fully capable of handling the transition of the three countries into one superstate, the document concludes, because it has been working on the full integration of the three countries since 1985.

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