

‘The Future of Intelligence and Counter-intelligence; Threats, Challenges, Opportunities’

On 27 and 28 May 2011 the Netherlands Intelligence Studies Association (NISA) is planning to organize another of its international tri-annual two-day conferences. The theme of the conference will be the future of intelligence and counter-intelligence. The conference will be held in Amsterdam/The Hague in late May 2011, marking the 20th anniversary of the NISA.

In recent years there has been a steady stream of publications and debate about new security threats and necessary intelligence reforms. The terrorist threat as it manifested itself during the infamous attacks of 9/11 caused a major upheaval in the international intelligence community. Some eight years later, however, some insiders maintain that the intelligence services are still burdened by the heritage of the Cold War in their mode of operation. This is a rather embarrassing observation for organizations that claim to possess early warning facilities as a trade mark. There seems to be a pervasive feeling that the twenty first century may hold more surprises than a mere revival of terrorism. Issues on the horizon are, among others, nuclear proliferation and cyber warfare.

We identify several important questions:

- What are new security threats?
- Do they also provide new opportunities?
- Does the development of technology help or hinder the intelligence services?
- How should intelligence services be optimally organized in the light of new threats, challenges and opportunities?
- To what extent will their operations be affected by new developments?
- Is it possible to speak of a new intelligence revolution?
- To what extent do new developments require intelligence sharing, not only nationally but also internationally?
- Do these developments pose new judicial and ethical challenges?

The NISA would like to invite both scholars and (former) practitioners of intelligence to present papers that entail a theoretical or a practical approach to these questions about the future of intelligence. The aim of the conference is to develop a more analytical perspective on the perceived developments. It proposes to do so by both plenary sessions and workshops. The plenary sessions can be seen as the kick-off for workshop discussions. The proposed set up envisions three plenary sessions:

1. The Future of Terrorism and Armed Conflict
2. The Future of (Counter)Intelligence
3. The Future of Security Cooperation

Each of these plenary sessions will be followed by four simultaneous work shops under the headings ‘Environment’, ‘Concepts’, ‘Organization’ and ‘Tradecraft’.

Speakers will come from a host of countries, including the United States, Canada and member states of the European Union.

The Netherlands Intelligence Studies Association NISA is a non-partisan, voluntary association established in 1991. Its principal purpose is to stimulate informed debate

in the Netherlands on intelligence and security issues and to support historical research. Membership is by invitation and currently includes academics, government officials, writers, journalists, lawyers and active and former intelligence officers.

For more information about the NISA and our previous conferences please consult the website at: www.nisa-intelligence.nl