

Michael Bell is currently working as an international business and foreign policy consultant after a long and distinguished career in Canada's diplomatic service. As Canada's Ambassador to the Netherlands in the early 1990s, he was instrumental in refocusing and revitalizing the Canada-Netherlands relationship and in developing trade and investment between the two countries. He was Canada's Ambassador in Moscow at the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union and, some years earlier, at the height of the terrorist insurgency, was Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia. He also worked in the Canadian embassies in Norway, Britain and Spain. As Assistant Deputy Minister in Ottawa he directed Canada's political and economic relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean and managed a multimillion-dollar project for the installation of the Foreign Ministry's global computer communications system. A graduate from Queen's University, he has traveled and worked extensively in Europe and Latin America. Following his last foreign assignment, he was asked to prepare special studies for the Foreign Minister on the expansion of N. A. T. O. and, in 1997, on the Cyprus problem.