

George Robertson

Secretary General of NATO

George Robertson was born in Scotland in 1946 at Port Ellen, on the Isle of Islay. He attended the University of Dundee and graduated with a master's degree in economics in 1968.

From 1968 to 1978, he was an official of the union responsible for the Scottish whiskey industry. In 1979, he was parliamentary private secretary to the Secretary of State for Social Services. From 1982 to 1993, he was the Opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, defence, and foreign affairs.

In 1983, Mr. Robertson was deputy Opposition spokesman for foreign and Commonwealth affairs and, from 1984 to 1993, he served as principal spokesman on European affairs. He served as Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland in the Shadow Cabinet from 1993 to 1997.

Mr. Robertson is a former chairman of the Scottish Labour party and vice-chairman of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. He was vice-chairman of the British Council for nine years and was vice-chairman of the British-Russia Centre. He is a former member of the Advisory Board for the Know-How Funds for Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union and, for seven years, he was on the Council of the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House).

Mr. Robertson was the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Defence from 1997 until 1999. In August 1999, he was selected to be the next Secretary General of NATO and he took up his new appointment on Oct. 14, 1999.

Mr. Robertson and his wife, Sandra, have three children.