

Newsletter



BARONESS SYMONS IS NEW E-AG CHAIRMAN

It is four years ago to the month that, chaired by Lord Judd, Baroness Symons of Vernam Dean addressed the E-AG on a subject in which she is expert: the Middle East. The Group is most glad that Lady Symons has taken over the E-AG chairmanship at the AGM in October this year. A high flyer in politics, Lady Symons took her first government post from May 1997 to June 1999 as a



LADY SYMONS presenting the *Elma Dangerfield Prize* to **JOHN SPENCER** at the *Savile Club* in October 2007

junior Foreign Office Minister. In 1999, she was appointed Minister of State for Defence Procurement. In June 2003, she was appointed Minister of State for the Middle East, International Security, Consular and Personal Affairs in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords. She is a non-executive of British Airways and serves

on the Board of Governors of the Ditchley Foundation. It will be readily understood that this is but the briefest of looks at a most distinguished career which is in full flood-tide.

The European-Atlantic Group has for many years worked on the principle of 'the King

is dead, Long Live the King' with arguably greater credence than applies in the constitution of the country. Our outgoing President, **Baroness Hooper CMG**, who retires after a four year term as is usual, remains very

much in our upper echelons, though transmuted to being

a Vice-President. Lady Hooper has been a tower of strength over this period and we extend to her grateful thanks for her continuing support. **Lord Dykes**, our new President, has cut a figure in our ranks which can only serve to further enhance his considerable reputation. His help is invaluable.

CONFIRMED FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- December 10th: LORD WATSON on 'European-Atlantic Relations' at the New Cavendish Club for a Christmas luncheon.
- February 26th: GENERAL SIR MIKE JACKSON GCB CBE DSO
- March 27th: Her Excellency THE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA

VENUES SECOND TO NONE

The Diehard brigade, which tends always to feature to advantage among the 1000-strong often traditionally-minded E-AG membership, may have evinced the occasional pang of regret that the Group has met less regularly than typical over the last 50 years at the St Ermin's Hotel but such voices have been all but drowned by approval of the recent move of the Group to London Clubs. The Savile Club, the Athenaeum,

the Caledonian Club, the Royal Overseas League, the Carlton, the Cavalry and Guards Club, the New Cavendish Club and the Oxford and Cambridge Club have been venues for E-AG events over the past two years and, indeed, on one memorable occasion, the break with tradition has been so accentuated that the E-AG managed an Organ Recital in Albany. Invidious as it may be to single out any one of

these fine places as a new 'home' for E-AG occasions, the comments last month about the whole tenor of the event held at The National Liberal Club with two former Congresswomen was such that active consideration will be given to holding regular events there. In this context it might be noted that the Group naturally remains resolutely non-party political and that it does not wish to sever links with the St Emms.

THE ELMA DANGERFIELD PRIZE

This prize worth £1500 is to be awarded annually to the author of either:

A Paper or Booklet on the theme of The Life and Times of Elma Dangerfield,

Or

A Paper or Booklet advocating solutions to a major problem in International Relations

Or

A Policy Paper advocating ways in which to further the cause of European-Atlantic Relations

The Recommended length is 50,000 to 100,000 words

The Prize is not restricted to members of the European-Atlantic Group

A Panel drawn from the European-Atlantic Group and beyond is to adjudicate on entries

The European-Atlantic Group will publish the winning entry on the Web and in booklet form.

The 2007 winner is John Spencer for his work entitled: *HITLER AND THE KING*. Copies will be available early next year.

that the world entirely will be set to rights over our festive board, no matter how influential our delegates. The E-AG proposes to build on its record and on the position of the many experts in international relations who are members by helping endorse platforms that are no less influential through being in two dimensions rather than three, namely in print form. Those members who have a positive plan for action to help the cause of doing good in the world - a plan in realised form that

perhaps might owe more to the approach of a military tactician than an ivory tower researcher - are invited to submit proposals for papers or monographs to the E-AG office. These papers need not be for public consumption - or even for publication to the Group as such, if the dictates of confidence require such discretion - in that they are for submission to those with their fingers on the levers of power. Collaboration from within the ranks of the E-AG is an option, as may be some expenses.

SPEAKERS AT THE E-AG

Since October 2006, Group Speakers have included Dame Eliza Manningham-Buller, Former Congressmen Tom Downey and Lou Frey, Baroness Park of Monmouth, The American Ambassador, Major General Patrick Cordingley, Sir Christopher Gent (Founder Of Vodafone), Sir Maurice

Shock, Sir Michael Quinlan, The Ambassador of Austria, Professor Stephen Haseler with Derek Scott, and Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope.

There are many illustrious speakers addressing the Group next year. Members are encouraged to suggest further names.

E-AG POLICY PAPERS

The European-Atlantic Group was founded partly to provide an informal meeting ground between visiting members of Congress and representatives of the Council of Europe but has since set itself the goal of debating the thorniest of subjects in the whole field of international relations, the idea being where possible of shedding light on what might become solutions to these problems. This is no easy task! Indeed, only the most determinedly optimistic of temperament could assume

THE NEW CAVENDISH CLUB

The facilities, the locale, and the ambience of this friendly Club to which the Group is grateful for affiliate membership remain popular with many members and we are glad to continue our association. Membership cards and numbers can be obtained at the E-AG office.

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The American Ambassador with Maria Maliderou at the February 2007 function