

Interviewing History

Featuring

General Brent Scowcroft

January 22, 2008

On January 22, 2008, AILA sponsored an interview between General Brent Scowcroft, and CSIS staff members Anca DiGiacomo, *Roundtables Manager, Office of Membership Groups*, Catherine Mason, *Research Assistant, Global Strategy Institute*, Derek Mix *Fellow, Europe Program*, and Eric Ridge, *Research Assistant, International Security Program*. The event, which marked the sixth installment of AILA's Interviewing History series, focused on lessons gleaned from Scowcroft's role as National Security Advisor during the end of the Cold War.



General Brent Scowcroft with interview team members Eric Ridge, Anca DiGiacomo, Catherine Mason, and Derek Mix

After an introduction by Linda Jamison, *dean, AILA* the interviewing team began with a film presentation of images and information about both Scowcroft's career and the lead he took removing the Soviet Union's troops from East Germany. The team then engaged Scowcroft in a discussion about his thoughts and challenges during the final days of the Cold War and a divided Germany.



When asked about challenges he faced in the often tense negotiations of the period, Scowcroft emphasized the significance of giving the opposing side a way to “save face”, and giving your own side a way to buy time. Scowcroft further discussed the prudence of cultivating trust and adaptability, and concluded by reiterating the importance of making well-informed and deliberate decisions.