

Charles F. Doran, ABSTRACT of presentation
Panel: North American Futures – The Challenges of the 21st Century

Directly and indirectly, global warming is going to have a great consequence for North America. One of the consequences will be that the Arctic is likely to melt sufficiently so that much more human activity will occur within this ocean, including trans-oceanic transportation, creating significant security problems for both Canada and the United States along the Arctic perimeter.

Already this increased use of the Arctic is causing tensions between Canada and the United States. Canada has taken steps to assert its sovereignty in the Arctic in the face of challenges from Russia and other governments. Likewise, the United States, concerned about its capacity to provide security in each of the oceans, and unabridged movement of its naval fleets, is making claims regarding the international passage of ships and the international legal character of straits that will confront Canada's own claims in the Arctic.

How will this set of claims and counterclaims end? How will the United States and Canada resolve this dispute in terms that meet the legitimate objectives of each government? How will they avoid decision-making mistakes that will harm the wonderful tradition of security coordination lasting more than seven decades?

This paper will propose a solution to this emerging bilateral problem along lines that will satisfy both governments and their respective electorates.

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