



The United States Mission to the OSCE

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Michael G. Kozak

Mr. Michael G. Kozak, of Arlington, Virginia, is a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service. During his professional career, he has served as Principal Deputy Legal Adviser of the Department of State and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. He has also served on various U.S. Government negotiating teams in crisis spots throughout the world.

During the 1970's, Mr. Kozak was Assistant U.S. Negotiator for the Panama Canal Treaties under Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter, and he participated in the multilateral effort to mediate an end to the Nicaraguan civil war in 1978-79. He was a member of the U.S. mediation team that implemented the Egypt-Israel peace treaty and that sought a solution to the conflict in Lebanon.

As a special Presidential envoy, Michael Kozak dealt with the crisis in Panama provoked by General Noriega's attempt to overthrow the constitutional government. As Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs at the beginning of the Bush administration, he helped Secretary Baker negotiate and implement the bipartisan accord on Central America which established the U.S. policy that helped to end the wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador through the holding of free and fair elections.

At the outset of the Clinton administration, Mr. Kozak was appointed special negotiator for Haiti, and he coordinated the U.S. policy to restore the democratically-elected government. In 1996, due to Mr. Kozak's broad experience with Cuban affairs (in 1980 he served as a negotiator during the Mariel boatlift and later as Presidents Reagan's and President Bush's negotiator with the government of Cuba), President Clinton named Michael Kozak as Chief of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Cuba.

In April 2000 Michael Kozak was nominated by the President and later confirmed by the Senate to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Belarus.

Mr. Kozak is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law. He is married to Eileen Kozak; they have two adult sons-Dan, a computer specialist, and Alex, a classics scholar.

On April 6, 2000 President Clinton named Michael Kozak as U.S. Ambassador to Belarus. Mr. Kozak had his confirmation hearing on June 6, 2000 and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 8, 2000. On September 29, 2000 he was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to Belarus.

Ambassador Kozak arrived in Belarus on October 20, 2000 and presented a copy of his credentials to the Belarusian Ministry for Foreign Affairs on November 2, 2000. At a formal ceremony on February 22, 2001 Ambassador Kozak presented his credentials to the Belarusian head of state. Ambassador Kozak departed post on August 8, 2003. He is succeeded by Ambassador George A. Krol