



Ambassador Charles L. English

Ambassador Charles L. English served in a variety of diplomatic assignments for the Department of State over a 35-year career, in Washington and overseas. Beginning as a consular officer in Panama, he worked to assure the smooth implementation of the newly-ratified Panama Canal treaties. As an economic officer in Greece, not long after Greece's accession to the European Community (now European Union), he reported on the country's deep and dangerous systemic weaknesses, which decades later would require Greece's massive economic bailout. In Hungary as economic counselor shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, he helped speed privatization of Communist-era state-owned industry, encouraged significant U.S. investment, and pushed for strong anti-corruption measures. As Deputy Chief of Mission in Croatia during its post-Yugoslav-wars transition, he promoted democratic development and the reintegration of Serb-minority refugees. Serving as Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, he made strong efforts to reconcile ethnic groups still deeply divided after a bitter three-year war.

In various domestic assignments, Mr. English served as a watch officer in the State Department's Operations Center; as a development economist, where he successfully encouraged the Reagan White House to allow the U.S. to join the African Development Bank; as an aide to successive Deputy Secretaries and to the Under Secretary for International Security Affairs, managing international security assistance and arms sales, in particular during the first Gulf War; as Policy Director for State's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau, overseeing U.S. efforts to rebuild police forces in a democratically-restored Haiti and in post-war Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina; as Director of State's European Union and Balkans Affairs offices, smoothing the path for Kosovo's independence; and as Dean of the State Department's School of Leadership and Management, encouraging a new generation of leaders.

Recalled to service after retirement, Ambassador English was sent to Kabul, Afghanistan to head the Secretariat of the International Police Coordination Board, a multinational effort to funnel assistance to Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior and National Police. He returned to Washington in September 2015.