Watching Thierry de Montbrial organise this conference reminds me very much of one of the highest moments in American culture and by that I refer to the comic strip, the bandes dessinées, Peanuts, in which there is an adorable character, a beagle named Snoopy, who is seated atop his doghouse with a typewriter. In the first panel you see Snoopy writing out, ‘It was a dark and stormy night ...’, the beginning of a novel. In panel two Snoopy is writing, ‘A shot rang out.’ In panel three it begins, ‘Meanwhile in Moscow, the tsar was ailing.’ Panel four is, ‘A hurricane has just flattened Topeka, Kansas.’ Panel five is, ‘The pearl divers in Tahiti were in a foul mood.’ Then Snoopy looks up from his typewriter and with a wolfish grin, says, ‘In chapter two I tie all of this together.’

That is exactly what Thierry does with these conferences in introducing such a variety of divergent characters and topics to his plot. We come now to the topic of ‘Development and Security’. In some ways the most important word in there is ‘and’ because it is important to understand that you can have one, but not without the other. I think we have heard over the last two days indications that that is certainly the point really of the Arab revolution, that you can have security for a while, but if you do not have development you will not have security for very long. Of course, it goes the other way. You need an elemental level of security to be able to accomplish development. That is the topic we are going to look at here today.

Certainly, it seems to me that the global financial crisis has reminded all of us, all citizens everywhere of the need for a certain level of protection that only national governments and, increasingly, international organisations can provide. It is difficult to understand exactly how those interact in a period where there is so much frustration over the problems that big government and big business have helped engender throughout the world, but that element of protection is increasingly evident and important.

We have two speakers to address these inter-joined topics here today. They are the perfect people to have to tie all of this together. I will give a brief introduction and then turn the podium over to them for about seven to eight minutes of remarks, if that is agreeable.

The first speaker is M.K. Narayanan who many of us have met in his capacity as National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India. Today, he is the Governor of the State of West Bengal and I think his trajectory is an important commentary in itself on the relationship of development and security because he oversees a region of very volatile politics and of increasing security problems in many areas that he has had a chance to deal with.

Our second speaker will be Yury Fedotov who is Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and Director-General of the UN office in Vienna since 2010, after a distinguished career as a diplomat.

I think they can both help us understand the relationship between development and security, and here we really begin to depart from the abstract theory of foreign policy and global governance and into the real granular topic of crime, its impact on development, its impact on society. M.K., if you would start us.