

US National Security Leaders: United Kingdom within the European Union is in US Interests

The United Kingdom and the United States have a special relationship and long standing friendship. Having worked closely with the UK government in our different capacities, we are loyal friends of the United Kingdom. While fully respecting that this is a decision for the British people, we feel it is our duty to articulate our views as to some of the likely consequences of a Brexit vote.

The world needs a strong and united Europe to work with the United States to address the many geopolitical and economic challenges we face. The strong bonds between the United States and Europe are rooted in shared values, shared interests, and common history. The United Kingdom has played a key role in strengthening the transatlantic alliance. But we are concerned that should the UK choose to leave the European Union, the UK's place and influence in the world would be diminished and Europe would be dangerously weakened.

In our globalised environment it is critical to have size and weight in order to be heard. The special relationship between our countries would not compensate for the loss of influence and clout that the UK would suffer if it was no longer part of the EU, a union of 28 nations with 500 million inhabitants which is the largest economic bloc in the world. This would be true in foreign policy, defense policy, and international trade matters and other areas where the EU is indeed a significant voice.

The decision UK citizens will make on June 23rd is of critical importance. All involved must weigh carefully the consequences of the decision not solely from the perspective of domestic economic interests, but also from the broader perspective of the impact on the European and international geopolitical landscape.

Madeleine K. Albright, *former Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton*

Richard V. Allen, *former National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan*

Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, *former National Security Advisor to President James Carter*

Frank C. Carlucci, III, *former Secretary of Defense and former National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan*

William S. Cohen, *former Secretary of Defense under President Bill Clinton*

Thomas E. Donilon, *former National Security Advisor to President Barack Obama*

Robert M. Gates, *former Secretary of Defense under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama*

Stephen J. Hadley, *former National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush*

James L. Jones, Jr., *former National Security Advisor to President Barack Obama*

Leon E. Panetta, *former Secretary of Defense under President Barack Obama*

William J. Perry, *former Secretary of Defense under President Bill Clinton*

Brent Scowcroft, *former National Security Advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush*

George P. Shultz, *former Secretary of State under President Ronald Reagan*