



Den Haag, 28 augustus 2008

Voortouwcommissie: **vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken**
Volgcommissie(s):

Bewindsperso(o)n(en):

Activiteit: **Gesprek**
Datum: dinsdag 9 september 2008
Tijd: 18.00 - 19.00 uur
Openbaar/besloten: besloten

Onderwerp: Gesprek met minister van Buitenlandse Zaken van Bangladesh, dr. Iftekar Ahmed Chowdhury (cv is bijgevoegd).

Agendapunt:

Zaak: - -
-

Griffier: R. Kolk-Timmermans

Activiteitsnummer: 2008A00306

Life Sketch of H.E.Dr.Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury



HON'BLE ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FOREIGN MINISTER)

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury assumed the responsibility of Adviser (Foreign Minister) for Foreign Affairs to the Caretaker Government on 18 January 2007. Besides, he is holding the portfolio of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Dr. Chowdhury stood First Class First in B.A. Honours in Political Science at the University of Dhaka and also obtained an M.A. and Ph.D in International Relations from the Australian National University, Canberra. Earlier, he secured a High First Division in Intermediate of Arts, and a place in Matriculation Examination. In the Superior Service Competitive Examination in 1968, he stood first in the then East Pakistan and joined the erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) in 1969.

Throughout a career that spanned across a period of nearly 38 years, Dr. Chowdhury held many senior positions in the government including that of Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York (2001-2007), Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva (1996-2000) and Ambassador to Qatar (1994-1996). He was a Secretary to the Government. He also had concurrent accreditation to the Holy See (Vatican), Chile and Peru as Ambassador.

During his long stints in Geneva and New York, he had been the President of the Conference on Disarmament, Chairman of the WTO Council on Trade Policy Review, WTO Committee on Trade and Development, Chairman, United Nations Information Committee, Chairman, Population and Development Commission, Chairman for the Committee for Social Development, Vice Chairman, Human Rights Commission, and Vice President of the United Nations General Assembly, and Vice Chairman, UNICEF, among other positions.

He had been actively associated with the United Nations reform process as a facilitator appointed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly. He was responsible for conducting negotiations on the paragraphs on "Responsibility to Protect" in the United Nations reform document, which he did successfully. He has addressed numerous seminars and workshops in various universities and think tanks around the world and has contributed articles on International Relations and Economic Development in a number of reputed learned journals.

His contributions as a global diplomat were recognized by the New York City Council when in a Proclamation in 2003, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury was named "one of the world's leading diplomatic leaders". He was also awarded a Knighthood of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by the Pope. He and his wife, Mrs. Nicole Chowdhury, have one daughter, Noreen Chowdhury Fink, currently with the International Peace Academy in New York.