

## News Release

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**HARRY BROWNE**  
**Libertarian for President**  
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# Building a bigger NATO is a budget-busting security risk for U.S., warns Harry Browne

WASHINGTON, DC — President Clinton's plan to expand NATO is a military boondoggle that will make America less secure, risk the lives of U.S. soldiers, and cost taxpayers billions of dollars, Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne warned today.

"Under Clinton's plan to expand NATO, the United States could have to go to war — up to and including nuclear war — to defend European countries that most Americans can't even locate on a map," said Browne.

"But in a world without significant enemies, the United States should be aggressively reducing the scope of our world military presence — not looking to become further entangled in the affairs of other nations," he said.

In a speech this week, Clinton vowed to expand the 16-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization by 1999 by accepting nations from the former Warsaw Pact, such as Slovenia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.

The only response from Republican challenger Bob Dole was that he would expand NATO by 1998, not 1999.

"Once again, Republicans and Democrats march in lockstep — enthusiastically spending more money on the military, and eager to risk our peace by linking our fate to quarrelsome foreign nations," said Browne.

"Once again, Republican and Democratic politicians justify expanding NATO and spending a Cold-War-size military budget by saying, 'It's still a dangerous world out there.' But if that's true, we should stay out of it — not swagger into it, armed to the teeth, making needless alliances, and looking for trouble," said Browne.

In addition to the heightened security risks, NATO expansion carries a hefty price tag that will be borne by American taxpayers, warned Browne.

"NATO expansion has already cost millions of dollars — and the tab will run into the billions," said Browne. "This year's military budget contains \$60 million to help fund the military forces of future NATO members Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Hungary. And the Congressional Budget Office estimates that expanding the alliance will cost Americans an additional \$6 billion to \$12 billion over a 15-year period."

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