

The main role of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will continue to be the (5)_____ of Britain's foreign (6)_____ on a day-to-day basis, and running of Britain's embassies abroad. The work of the overseas missions - (7)_____ trade, (8)_____ in dialogue with local (9)_____ and (10)_____ British interests, (11) _____, cultural, social and educational links, and (12) _____ in 'public' diplomacy - is (13) _____ to become redundant. Today's (14) _____ abroad are visible, high-profile figures - Francis Bertie, Ambassador to France in the early twentieth century, gave only one or two speeches in his thirteen years in France, whereas Michael Jay, the (15) _____ Ambassador, (16) _____ frequently on French news programmes, speaking (17) _____ in French.

Britain may not have been able to resolve its position with Europe and its place in the world, but it nevertheless remains true that Britain's history and its ambitions ensure it will play a (18) _____ role in the world well into the twenty-first century.

Exercise 29

Look through the semice record of Alexander Vershbow, 49, former American Ambassador to Russia. Do a two-way translation of an interview given by him to a Russian correspondent. Learn the interview and role-play it in class.

Name: Alexander Vershbow
 Place of birth: Boston, Massachusetts
 Family: Wife Lisa, sons Benjamin and Gregory-
 Education: B.A. in Russian and East European Studies from Yale University (1974), Master's degree in International Relations and Certificate of the Russian Institute from Columbia University (1976).
 Diplomatic rank: Career Minister
 Previous posts:
 1998 - 2001: US Ambassador to NATO
 1994 - 1997: Special assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council.

1993 - 1994: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian affairs.
 1991 - 1993: U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative and Charge d'Affairs of the US mission to NATO.
 1988 - 1991: Director of the State Department's Office of Soviet Union Affairs.
 1985 - 1988: Served in the U.S. Embassy in London.
 1981-1985: Served in the Office of Soviet Union Affairs.
 1979 - 1981: Served in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.
 1977 - 1979: Served in the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs.

[http:// usembassy.state.gov/Moscow/wwwha.html](http://usembassy.state.gov/Moscow/wwwha.html)

Interviewer: Как Вы смотрите на вашу роль посла?

Ambassador: First of all, I am here to represent US interests, which lie in doing what President Bush wants to do.

I. Как бы Вы сформулировали цели, которые преследует господин Буш в нашей стране?

A, President Bush is seeking to transform the Russian-American relationship into something that approaches not just a partnership but an alliance. So my role is to play an active part in trying to explain - to what is still a rather skeptical Russian elite of public opinion ~ that we do have common interests.

I. Что же, как посол, Вы практически делаете для этого?

A. I have been deliberately active in engaging with the Russian Press and doing public speaking events in order to get our side of the story into circulation. And I'm also trying to promote goodwill by taking an active part in cultural activities and social events, bringing a lot different people into our great national resource, Spaso House.

L. С кем в России Вы общаетесь больше всего?

A. Obviously as a diplomat I deal with first and foremost with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - with the minister and the deputy ministers primarily - but we also have regular contacts with people in the presidential administration and the Russian Security Council. I also have a lot of interaction with people on the economic side. We try to engage many of the other ministries to have active roles in our bilateral relationship - atomic energy