



SWEDISH INSTITUTE
ALEXANDRIA

Hans Blix in Vienna 2002
Photo by Dean Calma, IAEA



Hans Blix

Hans Blix studied at Uppsala University, Columbia University, and the University of Cambridge (Trinity Hall), from which he holds a doctorate in law. In 1959, he graduated in International Law at the University of Stockholm. In 1960, he was appointed Associate Professor in International Law.

Between 1962 and 1978 he was a member of the Swedish delegation at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. He also held several other positions in the Swedish administration between 1963 and 1976, and from 1961 to 1981 he was a member of the Swedish delegation to the United Nations.

From 1978 to 1979, he was the Swedish Foreign Minister. Hans Blix chaired the Swedish Liberal Party's campaign during the 1980 Referendum on nuclear power, campaigning in favor of retention of the Swedish nuclear energy program.

Between 1981 and 1997 Blix was the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He personally made repeated inspection visits to the Iraqi nuclear reactor Osiraq before its attempted destruction by the Iranians, in 1980, and its eventual destruction by the Israeli Air Force in 1981.

During the Iraq disarmament crisis before the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Blix was called back from retirement by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to lead United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in charge of monitoring Iraq.

In 2004, Blix published a book, *Disarming Iraq*, where he gives his account of the events and inspections before the coalition began its invasion.

Since 2003 Blix has been chair of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, an independent body funded by the Swedish government and based in Stockholm

(From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)