

# Letter from the Vice Chairmen

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This year the Council made a number of valuable contributions to the quality of the foreign policy debate. The Council's sponsorship of the Independent Task Force program led to eleven Task Force reports and three more Task Forces that will report before year's end. That is more than we have ever done before, and the reports are having more impact than ever.

The news coverage of the reports has been phenomenal—more than 1,000 news stories, including coverage by every major newspaper and news organization in the country and around the world. The report of the Council's Independent Task Force on Iraq, chaired by Thomas R. Pickering and James R. Schlesinger, which offered specific proposals to guide postwar reconstruction of Iraq, was the focus of a story by *60 Minutes*. The Task Force on Homeland Security, chaired by former senators Gary Hart and Warren B. Rudman, concluding that this country is still dangerously unprepared to prevent and respond to another catastrophic terrorist attack, led to Senate hearings. Its report also prompted legislation in many statehouses and municipalities across the country. The well-timed Task Force on Enhancing U.S. Leadership at the United Nations, chaired by David Dreier and Lee H. Hamilton, led to the introduction of legislation by Representatives Dreier (R-CA) and Tom Lantos (D-CA) in the House of Representatives, based on the report's findings that the United States must enhance its influence and reputation at the United Nations. Peter G. Peterson, chair of the Task Force on Public Diplomacy, met with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and other administration officials to present the Task Force's findings that the administration must do more to counter America's deteriorating image around the world. The Task Force on Terrorist Financing, chaired by Maurice R. Greenberg, set forth ways in which the United States could more effectively deal with this problem.

The Council's Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Goeconomic Studies continues to play an important synergistic role, bringing together experts in business, economics, and foreign policy. This year alone, under the center's auspices, the Council produced Task Force reports on terrorist financing and Chinese military power (the latter



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chaired by Harold Brown and Joseph W. Prueher); and two books, *Democracy and Development: A Policy Agenda for the 21st Century*, by Council fellows Morton H. Halperin, Michael M. Weinstein, and Joe Siegle, and *Globalization: What's New*, edited by Michael Weinstein, with contributions by some of the world's leading economists, which will be published next year. The center's fellows also wrote numerous articles, organized roundtables, and sponsored lectures focused on economic and foreign policy issues. And the Council and Columbia University have joined forces to offer new graduate student fellowships to train the next generation of policymakers in a combined program of economics and foreign policy.

We are also pleased that the Council has an endowed chair named in honor of Ralph Bunche, the first African American to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace and a former undersecretary-general of the United Nations. The Council established the chair in the belief that solving matters of economic and political development in Africa, along with its vast health and humanitarian calamities, will help advance U.S. national interests as well. Inaugural chair holder Princeton N. Lyman, former ambassador to Nigeria and South Africa and former assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, will bring together American and African scholars and foreign policy practitioners, mobilizing new and existing talent to address these issues.

The global health fellowship, supported by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will integrate the study of global health issues and U.S. foreign policy analysis. The Council and the Gates Foundation

recognize that widespread diseases such as HIV/AIDS and SARS relate to U.S. national security in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

What the Council's leadership is trying to do is develop ideas that will help people understand and solve today's complex foreign policy problems, and to advance new ways to think about them. When you look at the impact of the Task Force reports, and the books and articles produced by the Council's fellows, it is clear that on any fair evaluation, we are making real headway.

As co-chairs of the presidential selection committee, we are delighted to welcome Richard N. Haass as our next president. We are confident that under Richard's leadership, the Council will continue to flourish as a guardian of the quality of ideas and information.

No one deserves more credit for our great leap forward than our retiring president, Leslie H. Gelb. His decade of devotion to the Council has enlarged and diversified its membership and stimulated intellectual inquiry on new issues that are shaping foreign policy, and he has kept us all happy while working his magic. Les's commitment to foreign policy study is deep. As he steps down to write and think about that subject in a more sustained fashion than was possible while shouldering his presidential duties, we send him forth with a standing ovation and every good wish imaginable for the future. Many thanks, Les.

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