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# MISSION STATEMENT

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ounded in 1921, the Council on Foreign Relations is an independent, national membership organization and a nonpartisan center for scholars dedicated to producing and disseminating ideas so that individual and corporate members, as well as policymakers, journalists, students, and interested citizens in the United States and other countries, can better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other governments. The Council, which is headquartered in New York with an office in Washington, DC, does this by

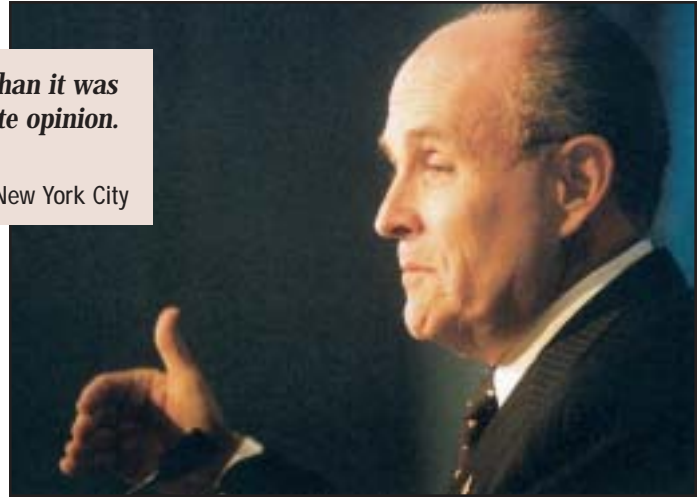
- Convening meetings in New York, Washington, and other select American cities where senior government officials, global leaders, and prominent thinkers come together with Council members to debate and discuss the major foreign policy issues of our time;
- Conducting a wide-ranging Studies Program where Council fellows produce articles and books that analyze foreign policy issues and make concrete policy recommendations;
- Publishing *Foreign Affairs*, the preeminent journal covering international affairs and U.S. foreign policy;
- Maintaining a diverse membership, including special programs to foster interest and expertise in the next generation of foreign policy leaders;
- Sponsoring Independent Task Forces whose reports help set the public foreign policy agenda; and
- Providing up-to-date information about the world and U.S. foreign policy on the Council's website, [www.cfr.org](http://www.cfr.org).

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**Convening meetings where officials, leaders, and thinkers debate and discuss  
the major foreign policy issues of our time . . .**

***“To many people, the world is a lot more dangerous than it was before September 11, 2001. I have exactly the opposite opinion. I believe the world is safer.”***

—RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI, Former Mayor of New York City



***“The force of reality has set in very clearly in Iraq over the last year, and the United States, as great and powerful as we are, cannot win the great global challenges of the twenty-first century without friends, without alliances, without allies.”***

—Senator CHUCK HAGEL (R-NE)



***“If Saudi Arabia is guilty of blame for what [Osama bin Laden] has become, the United States must surely share the blame. Both of us backed the mujahideen to liberate Afghanistan from Soviet occupation and allowed such people as bin Laden into the fray.”***

—SAUD AL-FAISAL,  
Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia



***“We’ve always been a pretty profligate nation. We’ve had so much in natural resources that it’s hard for us to believe that they’re finite, that there is a problem. We’re beginning to understand that now.”***

—CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN,  
Former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency



***“I think the biggest problem of intelligence today is political direction from the White House. And I don’t know what I would do if I were George Tenet, other than resign.”***

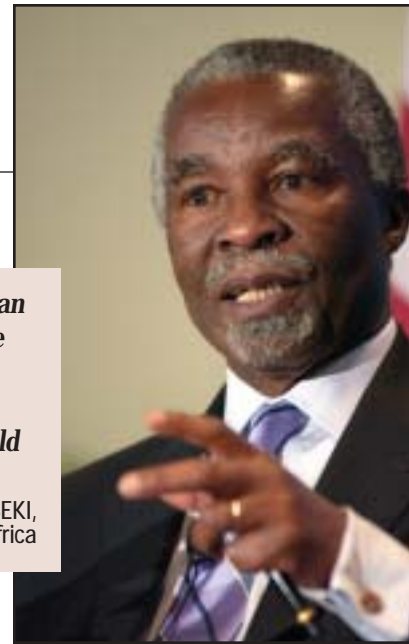
—STANSFIELD TURNER,  
Former Director of Central Intelligence  
[speaking at a Council meeting three weeks  
before Tenet announced his resignation]



***“At the beginning of the revolution, whenever right-wing newspapers wished to curse me, they used to call me a feminist. They called me a defender of human rights. And at that***

***time, a word like ‘liberal’ was a pejorative word. But, gradually, human rights in Iran established itself to the point that now defending human rights, protecting human rights, has gained a social respect and value.”***

—SHIRIN EBADI,  
Iranian human rights activist and  
2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner



***“The most exciting thing on the African continent is the consensus about some very simple, common, basic things . . . peace and stability and democracy. It gives the possibility for all of us to hold one another accountable.”***

—THABO MBEKI,  
President of South Africa

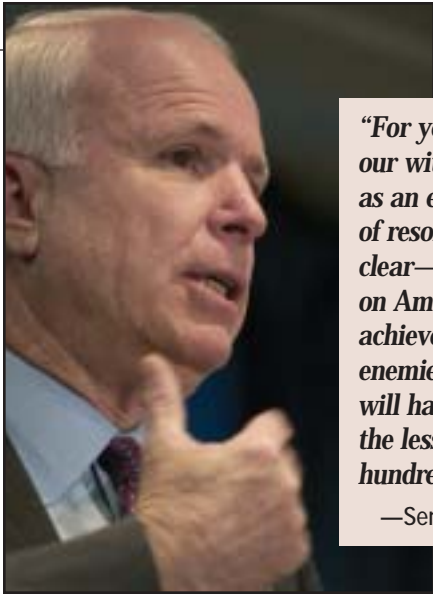
***“I believe that in the coming twenty years and beyond, it is entirely possible for China to maintain steady and rapid economic growth. Our GDP will quadruple its 2000 size, exceeding 4 trillion U.S. dollars by 2020. Just imagine the vast vistas that would be opened for American investors and companies.”***

—WEN JIABAO,  
Premier of  
the State Council  
of the  
People’s Republic  
of China



***“Tragically, in making the decision to go to war in Iraq, the Bush administration allowed its wishes, its inclinations, and its passions to alter the state of facts and the evidence of the threat we faced from Iraq.”***

—Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY (D-MA)



*“For years, al-Qaeda used our withdrawal from Somalia as an example of our lack of resolve. The lesson was clear—inflict enough pain on Americans, and you will achieve your aims. If our enemies succeed in Iraq, they will have taught the world the lesson of Mogadishu a hundredfold.”*

—Senator JOHN MCCAIN (R-AZ)



*“We cannot continue to say India, Pakistan, and Israel do not exist. They are there. They are de facto [nuclear] weapons states. And we have to deal with the reality.”*

—MOHAMED ELBARADEI,  
Director-General,  
International Atomic  
Energy Agency



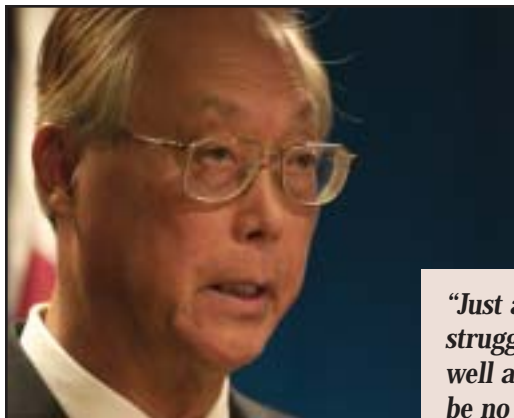
*“What intelligence we get—and how good it is—is a force-protection issue for America, but it is also a security issue for America going forward.”*

—Representative JANE HARMAN (D-CA)



*“It should be clearly seen that those who commit violence in the name of Islam do not represent this faith in any way. The allegation that there is an antagonism between the Islamic world and the West emanates from a misleading reductionism. There are people on both sides that are deceived by this fallacy.”*

—RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN,  
Prime Minister of Turkey



*“Just as the Cold War was an ideological as well as geopolitical struggle, the war against terrorism must be fought with ideas as well as with armies. Unless we win the battle of ideas, there will be no dearth of willing foot soldiers ready to martyr themselves for their cause.”*

—GOH CHOK TONG, Prime Minister of Singapore