
LETTER *from the* CHAIRMAN

In a presidential election year dominated by foreign policy issues and the war on terror, I cannot think of a more important or worthwhile institution than the Council on Foreign Relations. This year, in particular, we have a special responsibility to provide Americans with the background they need to make informed choices about the upcoming elections.



Peter G. Peterson

One valuable channel for informing the interested public about the elections is the Council's Campaign 2004 website (www.cfr.org/campaign2004). ABC News' political website "The Note" praised it as a site that "does for foreign policy and the presidential candidates what somebody smart somewhere should be doing for domestic stuff. You'll be blown away by how deep and thorough it is." The website features briefs written by Council fellows summarizing top foreign policy issues, transcripts from campaign-related events at the Council, candidates' speeches and statements, scorecards comparing and contrasting candidates' viewpoints on various foreign policy issues, links to other campaign-related websites, and a calendar of significant events on the campaign trail.

As in past election years, *Foreign Affairs* also contributed to the Council's campaign coverage through the publication of several articles recommending strategies for the next administration. These included C. Fred Bergsten's "Economic Agenda for the Next President," Samuel R. Berger's "A Democratic Foreign Policy," and Senator Chuck Hagel's "A Republican Foreign Policy."

We also, for the first time, hosted receptions and luncheons during this summer's Democratic and Republican conventions in Boston (cohosted by Harvard's Kennedy School) and New York to introduce the Council and its work to visiting delegates and party leaders. Both events were built around a panel of Council fellows, joined in Boston by Harvard professors, dis-

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Discussing the major foreign policy and security challenges facing the country in 2005 and beyond.

The Council's contributions will not end with the election in November. In an effort to serve as a resource for the next administration, the Council will provide analysis and policy recommendations for critical foreign policy challenges facing the United States. These and other relevant materials will be featured in a special "Transition 2005" section of the website.

In last year's message, I felt it was most appropriate to give the warmest of thanks to then-President Leslie H. Gelb for his decade of extraordinary leadership. Les made us especially proud to be members of this great organization.

This year, I want to express my deep appreciation to President Richard N. Haass. It has been a great first year. Richard has made several absolutely first-rate additions to the staff. Our Task Forces, in my view, have never been more effective, and our meetings

program is better than ever. In short, the organization is thriving.

Thanks as always to James F. Hoge Jr. for the continuing success of *Foreign Affairs*. It has proved itself again and again to be America's most influential publication on international affairs and foreign policy. So much more than a magazine, it is the international forum of choice for the most important new ideas, analysis, and debate on the world's most significant issues.

Finally, thanks go to Carla A. Hills and Robert E. Rubin, our vice chairs, and to all the other directors of the Council for the time and energy they dedicate to making this institution great. Special thanks to William J. McDonough, who has ably served as a director and vice chairman of our Board for many years, and in particular for his skillful chairmanship of the Finance and Budget Committee during the years of the Council's greatest growth. I am very sorry



Peter G. Peterson with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai and Council President Richard N. Haass.

to bid farewell to several other longtime Board directors—John Deutch, Robert D. Hormats, Theodore C. Sorensen, and George Soros—whose service over the years made a deep impact on this institution. I am pleased to welcome Maurice R. Greenberg back to the Board and look forward to working with new directors Madeleine K. Albright, Richard N. Foster, Joseph S. Nye Jr., and Fareed Zakaria.

Peter G. Peterson
Chairman of the Board