
WASHINGTON PROGRAM

The goal of the Washington Program is to use the Council's convening power and intellectual resources to help inform the policy debate in the nation's capital, through interactions with Congress, the administration, and the business community. Using press briefings, small conversations among experts, roundtables, and Task Forces, the Washington Program is the place where policymakers turn for guidance, to test new ideas, and to engage with experts as they seek and develop policy initiatives.

This year the Washington Program connected with Capitol Hill as members of the Senate recognized the Council as an effective forum for their views on Iraq. Senator **Edward M. Kennedy** (D-MA) kicked off what turned out to be a series of Senate speeches on Iraq when he argued that the Bush pol-

icy was built around an exaggerated version of intelligence designed to further the administration's own political purposes. Just one week later, Senator **Jon Kyl** (R-AZ) brought to the Council an unofficial rebuttal, identifying the many Democratic politicians—including presidential candidate **John F. Kerry**—who had argued forcefully that Saddam Hussein likely had weapons of mass destruction or that he posed a threat. Kyl maintained that the U.S. action in Iraq was predicated on preventing a future war—not on an imminent threat. Senators **Bob Graham** (D-FL) and **John McCain** (R-AZ) followed, with McCain stating, "Time and time again, the world has witnessed vast brutality, done nothing, and then said, 'never again.'" McCain then strongly advocated a sustained presence in Iraq. This spontaneous senatorial exchange was disseminated to the broader membership and the public on the Council's website.



Margaret D. Tutwiler, U.S. undersecretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs (right), talks with Washington Program Director Nancy E. Roman (center) and a group of Council members.

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Robert S. Mueller, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, speaks on future challenges facing the FBI.

The interaction with Congress took place on a more intimate level, too, as members of Congress came to the Council to participate in small discussions. Representative **Jim Kolbe** (R-AZ), who chairs the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs, was joined by Global AIDS Coordinator **Randall Tobias** for a small breakfast meeting with just thirteen Council members—each an expert on HIV/AIDS. Kolbe sought input from these members as he was preparing to draft the bill appropriating

Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy Program

An informed Congress is essential to an effective American foreign policy, and an informed congressional staff is essential to an effective Congress. Reaching across party lines, the Council's Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy Program provides a forum for senators, representatives, and their staffs to discuss major international issues in small, private settings.

This year the Council increased its efforts to create a sustained foreign policy dialogue on Capitol Hill. Through its popular congressional roundtables and a special initiative to involve more members of Congress in events, the Council strengthened its ties with key legislators. The Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy Program, co-chaired by **Thomas E. Donilon** and **Kenneth M. Duberstein**, was coordinated by **Nancy E. Roman** and **Alton Frye**. The roundtable brought together a bipartisan, senior-level group of congressional staff members from both houses to discuss the top foreign policy challenges of today and tomorrow. More than 120 congressional staffers participated in over 15 roundtables on issues ranging from Spain after the Madrid bombing to outsourcing.

Next year brings plans to expand the program, offering briefings for congressional delegations before they travel overseas, developing a bank of Council experts for members of Congress drafting foreign policy legislation, and developing small working groups among key members of Congress.



A congressional roundtable on "Rethinking Governance Worldwide" with Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy Program Co-Director Alton Frye, Daniel J. Kaufman of the World Bank, and Jim Greene, legislative assistant to Senator Joseph R. Biden (D-DE).



At a meeting of former ambassadors to the United Nations, (left to right) Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, Fred Hiatt, Thomas R. Pickering, and Richard C. Holbrooke discuss the future of the United Nations.

HIV/AIDS funding. He solicited feedback on whether any elements in the appropriations bill posed obstacles to the experts' efforts—a perfect example of what the Washington Program hopes to facilitate.

The Council also convened lawyers, scholars, and authors to address the foreign policy issues moving to the fore in Washington. Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs **Margaret D. Tutwiler** addressed more than one hundred members of the Council on the very day of her resignation. She argued passionately that the government's current public diplomacy program is too much about government-to-government and elite-to-elite contact and too little about contact with the person on the street. Ordinary Arabs and Americans must engage more with one another before policy can truly advance, she asserted.

Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D-NY) drew

attention to the work of Council Senior Fellow **Gene B. Sperling** on girls' education with a standing-room-only crowd at a general breakfast this spring. Sperling compiled the many pieces of evidence that tie girls' education to economic advancement in developing countries, and Clinton used that forum to announce her intention to draft a bill to devote resources to girls' education. Several weeks later, Sperling met at the Council with the senator's staff and a group of education experts who brainstormed about the best approach to such legislation.

John McLaughlin, then deputy director of central intelligence, gave members a thoughtful, off-the-record assessment of the CIA's successes and failures in the struggle to obtain and provide the best intelligence and analysis.

The Washington Program also reached out to ambassadors: French Ambassador **Jean-David Levitte** invited members to his official residence to discuss

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the delicate state of U.S. relations with France, and the Council brought Spanish Ambassador **Javier Ruzperez** to Capitol Hill just following the bombings in Madrid to address senior congressional foreign policy aides about the impact of terrorism in Europe.

In the months ahead the program will focus on building a stronger corporate community for the Council in Washington, where 80 of the Council's 225 member companies are either headquartered or have offices. Corporate members will have new opportunities to brainstorm among themselves and with other experts on some of the nettlesome foreign policy issues facing multinationals. The Washington Program will also sponsor small discussions among corporate members, members of Congress, and experts on China, energy, and immigration—all issues of central concern to the business community.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) with Council Senior Fellow Gene B. Sperling at the rollout of the Council special report What Works in Girls' Education.



New Washington Director

Nancy E. Roman took over as vice president and director of the Washington Program in March 2004. She oversees the management of the Council's Washington office, directs the highly regarded Washington general meetings program, and plans to focus particular attention on building the Council's corporate and congressional programs.

Roman brings a wealth of experience to her Council role. She was president of the G7 Group, a political consulting firm that advises Wall Street on the economic implications of political developments as well as legislative and regulatory policy in the G7 group of advanced industrialized nations, China, and Latin America. She helped develop the firm's business and growth strategy, overseeing client relationships with top investment institutions.

Roman also spent ten years as a journalist covering politics, Congress, foreign policy, and economics. She was legal affairs reporter for the *Washington Times* before becoming that paper's congressional bureau chief. She also worked for several years as a political reporter for the *Fort Lauderdale News* and the *Sun-Sentinel*. In addition, she served as press secretary and legislative assistant to Representative Clay Shaw Jr. (R-FL), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. Roman holds a BA in journalism and French from Baylor University and an MA in international economics and American foreign policy from Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.



Nancy E. Roman