

COMMUNICATIONS

The ongoing war in Iraq and the 2004 U.S. presidential election continued to generate extensive media interest in Council content and programs this year. The transition to the second Bush administration provided a great opportunity for the Communications Department to build on last year's background briefing series for the media. The program was created to bring attention to the Council's work and fellows' wide-ranging expertise and to provide a service to the press by



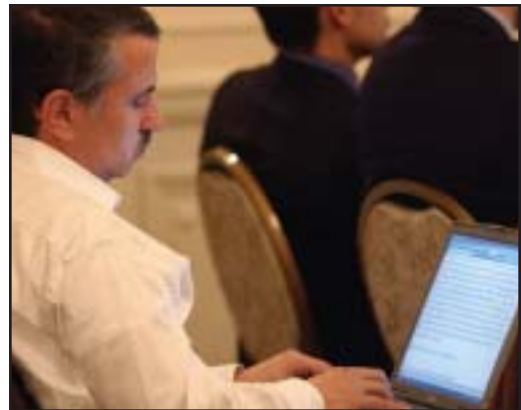
Washington Post correspondent Robin Wright at the Iran Task Force briefing.

The Communications Department also launched a media training program to help Council fellows better craft and communicate their message; Council fellows wrote and placed more than 200 op-eds and articles in the top publications in the United States and around the world. Council content and scholars were also featured in nearly 10,000 broadcast and print stories, more than any other think tank on foreign policy issues (based on an extensive tracking system using multiple Internet search engines and commercial databases).

giving them access to top thinkers in intimate settings. This year the department hosted an unprecedented twenty-one briefings on subjects ranging from international economics to global health to energy issues.

The department continued to reach out to the foreign press and hosted a panel for members of the New York Foreign Press Center with Council scholars. The Communications Department, in addition to sending journalists advance notice of *Foreign Affairs* articles and original content produced by the cfr.org editorial team, also engaged the burgeoning blogger community.

Readership of "The World This Week" eNewsletter continues to grow, reaching Council members, over 6,000 journalists, and 11,500 individuals on the public list every week.



New York Times Columnist Thomas L. Friedman at an on-the-record meeting in Washington, DC.



Barbara Walters of ABC News with U.S. News and World Report Editor Mortimer B. Zuckerman.