
NEW YORK MEETINGS PROGRAM

The New York Meetings Program offers members the opportunity to exchange ideas with influential world figures, policymakers, and opinion-shapers. This year's program featured more than 140 events, including single-speaker venues, debates, panels, author conversations, and screenings. Homeland security and the war on terror, Iraq, developments in the Middle East, and the foreign policy issues confronting the second Bush administration figured prominently in the New York halls of the Council.

The unique perspectives of policymakers from home and abroad enable Council members to see more clearly the nuances of world events. This year the New York Meetings Program hosted more than twenty heads of state or chief ministers. Pakistani President **Pervez Musharraf** assessed the collaboration of Pakistan and the United States in the war on

terror, and Singaporean Minister-Mentor **Lee Kuan Yew** offered an Asian perspective on the "world after Iraq." Egyptian Foreign Minister **Ahmed Aboul Gheit** engaged members in a discussion of the prospects for peace and democracy in the Middle East. Indian Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** presented India's view of its relationship with the United

States. Nigerian President **Olusegun Obasanjo** discussed Nigeria's economic reforms, and British Chancellor of the Exchequer **Gordon Brown** unveiled a plan to combat global poverty. Russian Minister of Defense **Sergey Ivanov** spoke of the domestic and external challenges facing his country. The new European Commission president, **José Manuel Durão Barroso**, made the case for a stronger bilateral relationship between the United States and the EU, and Secretary-General **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer** of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization considered the future of NATO. Former South African President **Nelson Mandela** made a special appearance at



Oxford University's Timothy Garton Ash with Council Adjunct Senior Fellow Elizabeth D. Sherwood-Randall.

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the Council to introduce his wife, **Graça Machel**, who in her capacity as the president of the Foundation for Community Development in Mozambique spoke about Africa's development agenda.

Numerous U.S. government officials and individuals who have recently held influential policy positions came to the Council to discuss their areas of expertise. Secretary of Defense **Donald Rumsfeld** offered an update on the global war on terror, and **John D. Negroponte** briefed members on Iraq in the fall of 2004, when he was U.S. ambassador. General **Richard B. Myers**, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addressed security concerns, and Admiral **Vernon E. Clark**, General **John P. Jumper**, and General **Peter J. Schoomaker** spoke of the military's challenges for the twenty-first century. Outgoing World Bank President **James D. Wolfensohn** offered his thoughts on international economic development, and UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs **Jan Egeland** discussed relief efforts in the aftermath of December's devastating tsunami in South and Southeast Asia. The Council also welcomed former UN High Commissioner for Refugees **Sadako Ogata**, who discussed lessons learned from recent refugee crises.

The Council's "Transition 2005" series examined the foreign policy challenges facing the second Bush administration. Among the issues this series tackled were intelligence reform, the administration's economic agenda, and policy toward Europe, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Russia, China, and the countries of Latin America. Experts, including former Acting Director of Central Intelligence **John E. McLaughlin**, former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers **R. Glenn Hubbard**, former Deputy Secretary of State **Strobe Talbott**, and *Modern History of Iraq* author **Phebe A. Marr**, guided these discussions.

Other experts were invited to explore trends on the international economic scene. Among these speakers were outgoing European Commission President **Romano Prodi** on challenges of European

History Makers

Home Box Office sponsors the Council's History Makers series, in which individuals who have made a unique contribution at a critical juncture in foreign policy are invited to reflect on the larger lessons to be drawn from their experiences. An informal atmosphere encourages History Makers to draw on personal experiences, recount interesting or critical moments, and provide firsthand accounts of the interplay between major actors. In this, its second year, the series included former Israeli Prime Minister **Ehud Barak**, who reflected on Camp David 2000, and former Secretary of the Treasury **Paul O'Neill**, who spoke of his historic tour of Africa with the rock star and activist Bono. Other History Makers this year were **Robert D. Blackwill**, who has worn many hats in government service, including U.S. ambassador to India and U.S. envoy to Iraq; and **Lakhdar Brahimi**, who from his vantage point as the special adviser to the UN secretary-general and the former special representative of the secretary-general for Afghanistan, spoke about his long experience in the realm of conflict prevention and resolution.



Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Council Chairman Peter G. Peterson.



Admiral Vernon E. Clark, General John P. Jumper, Council Board Director Joseph S. Nye Jr., and General Peter J. Schoomaker.

integration, European Central Bank President **Jean-Claude Trichet** on the euro, French Finance Minister **Thierry Breton** on reforms in France, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director **Rodrigo de Rato y Figaredo** on the IMF at sixty. In addition, the highly popular World Economic Update Series, moderated by **Daniel K. Tarullo** and featuring international economists from leading investment banks, continued in its seventh year.

More than twenty authors came to the Council to discuss their books, from **Graham T. Allison** on nuclear terrorism and **Jeffrey D. Sachs** on eliminating

global poverty to **Dennis B. Ross** on the Middle East peace process, **Roya Hakakian** on Iran, and **Natan Sharansky** and **David Rieff** on democracy. Council Chairman **Peter G. Peterson** shared his thoughts on the U.S. economy based on his best-selling book *Running on Empty*; Council President **Richard N. Haass** discussed his latest book, *The Opportunity*, a look at American grand strategy in the world today; and Council Fellow **Stephen E. Flynn** talked about homeland security.

A new discussion series at the Council is focusing on the nexus of religion and foreign policy. In 2004–2005, these panels explored Islam in Europe and Africa, discussed the intersection of religion and human rights, and evaluated the foreign policy legacy of Pope John Paul II.

The Council's Book Club Series continued this year; each meeting is limited to twenty participants in order to foster a salon-like setting for intimate, informal exchange. Led by member **Karl E. Meyer**, this year's series in New York featured Niall Ferguson's *Colossus* and Fareed Zakaria's *The Future of Freedom*. Another nontraditional Council venue—a classic film series—has also proven quite popular with members and their guests. With post-screening discussions led by member and film historian **Jay M. Parker**, this year's offerings included *Judgment at Nuremberg* and *The Ugly American*.

Theodore C. Sorensen, Gillian Martin Sorensen, and former UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata.



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Council President Richard N. Haass and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Council, HBO, and PBS Partner in Public Outreach Effort

As part of the Council's mission to help the public better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries, the Council has joined HBO and PBS to promote three provocative films. Each movie addresses an important issue of the twenty-first century: nuclear terrorism, genocide, and AIDS. Produced by HBO, the movies are screened for Council members in advance of their multiple airings on HBO. As a public service, HBO has agreed to give these films to PBS to reach a wider audience. A panel discussion featuring Council staff or member experts follows each PBS airing. Members had the opportunity to screen *Dirty War*, a film that prompts the audience to consider the state of national preparedness in the event of a nuclear terrorist attack, and *Sometimes in April*, a film depicting the 1994 Rwandan genocide and the truth and reconciliation hearings that followed ten years later. In fall 2005, members will preview and discuss *Yesterday*, a film set in contemporary South Africa that puts a human face on the politics of the AIDS crisis.

Jane Harman, Dan Glickman, Richard L. Plepler, and Council Senior Fellow Stephen E. Flynn at a screening of Dirty War.

