
WASHINGTON PROGRAM

The Washington Program strives to inform and enhance the policy debate in the nation's capital by using the Council's convening power and intellectual resources to foster interactions involving members and staff with Congress, the administration, and the business community. Through press briefings, small conversations among experts, roundtables, and Task Forces, the Washington Program is becoming a place where policymakers turn for guidance and where others in the foreign policy community hatch and test ideas as they seek to steer and improve policy.

This year the Washington Program expanded its work on Capitol Hill by hosting breakfast meetings at which Council members interacted with both veteran members of Congress and their newly

elected colleagues. As part of the program's dedicated outreach to Capitol Hill, the Council offered a half-day briefing for new members of Congress that featured President George H.W. Bush's national security adviser, **Brent Scowcroft**, on challenges in the Middle East; former U.S. Ambassadors to China **J. Stapleton Roy** and **James R. Sasser** on issues involving China; and the Council's own Senior Fellow **Ray Takeyh** about the difficulties—nuclear and otherwise—facing Iran and its neighbors.

The Council continued its long-standing roundtable series for senior congressional staff members, featuring speakers ranging from *Weekly Standard* editor **William Kristol** to author and commentator **Peter L. Bergen**. The Council also worked with the Pew Forum on Religion in Public Life to engage the same group of senior staff in discussions that touched on the intersection of religion and foreign policy. **Richard Land**, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, spoke to the group about the influence of evangelicals on U.S. Middle East policy.

The Council has also established a new and well-received Expert Bank that aims to build customized briefings for legislators on foreign policy issues



Then Interim Prime Minister of Iraq Ayad Allawi.

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UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

ranging from international law to Iran. The Expert Bank is part of the Washington Program's effort to position the Council as a valuable resource for policymakers to help them keep abreast of foreign policy topics and to dig deeper on pressing issues. As part of the Expert Bank, Ambassador **Dennis Kux**, senior policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and **Mahnaz Ispahani**, the Council's senior fellow for South and West Asia, briefed Senator **Evan Bayh** (D-IN) just before his trip to India. They discussed topics ranging from India's economic growth to its relations with Pakistan, China, and the United States. Representative **Henry Cuellar** (D-TX) requested Expert Bank briefings on Iraq, North Korea,

Bipartisanship

In the wake of November's divisive election, the Council launched a new initiative aimed at fostering bipartisan discussion of foreign policy at all levels—on Capitol Hill at both staff and member levels, in the White House, and within its own programming.

Many Council members fondly recalled the days when Democrats and Republicans interacted socially. Such interactions provided more opportunities for discussion between the parties and more relationships across the aisle that permitted real dialogue.

The Council is in a unique position to promote discussion given both its convening power and its long-standing bipartisan tradition. In an effort to recapture the benefits of nonpartisan conversation in and around the Capitol, the Washington Program has begun regular foreign policy briefings for congressional chiefs of staff. With the advice of a bipartisan group of twelve present and former policymakers, it will also

- Expand its Friday bipartisan briefings to include more senior foreign policy staff on Capitol Hill;
- Host salon-style dinners to bring together high-level officials, past and present, from both parties to discuss important foreign policy issues; and
- Produce a Council Special Report that will make recommendations on procedures and policies that will foster bipartisan discussion.



Brent Scowcroft with Representative Gwen Moore (D-WI) at a Council briefing for new members of Congress.



Commander of U.S. Central Command General John P. Abizaid.

and Mexico. In response, the Council brought **Phebe A. Marr**, senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, **Eric Heginbotham**, Council senior fellow, Asia studies, and **Robert A. Pastor**, vice president for international affairs at American University, to brief Cuellar in April. Pastor described the chal-

lenges posed by Mexico's development gap, arguing that the North American Free Trade Agreement has worked to help northern Mexico develop but has left the country's southern tier behind. He laid out some ideas for correcting this dysfunction, including an investment fund that would help build infrastructure throughout Mexico.

In Washington, small groups of Council members are invited to lunch at the residences of various foreign ambassadors for off-the-record discussions about foreign policy concerns. This year those conversations produced robust exchanges with ambassadors **Ranendra Sen** of India, **Chan Heng-Chee** of Singapore, **Jean-David Levitte** of France, **John Bruton** of the European Union, **Nabil Fahmy** of Egypt, and **Sung-Joo Han** of South Korea, among others.

The Washington Program meetings were anchored by three series: The Nexus of Science and Foreign Policy, Islam around the World, and China's Rise. The Nexus of Science and Foreign Policy initiative examined the convergence of these two fields in a globalized world. Islam around the World focused on Islam in India, Europe, Africa, Russia and Eurasia, and Southeast Asia, as well as on issues such as youth and women in the Islamic world. The China's Rise series examined the international polit-



Vice President and Washington Program Director Nancy E. Roman and Weekly Standard Editor William Kristol.

ical and economic implications of China's increased international activity and global capabilities.

Washington-area members were also privileged to attend conversations on Iraq with Iraqi Interim Prime Minister **Ayad Allawi**, Iraqi Interim President **Ghazi al-Yawar**, Commander of the U.S. Central Command General **John P. Abizaid**, then U.S. Ambassador to Iraq **John D. Negroponte**, and former British Special Representative for Iraq Sir **Jeremy Greenstock**. Other meeting highlights included UN

Secretary-General **Kofi Annan** on how to create a more secure world; Representative **Charles Rangel** (D-NY) on reinstating the military draft; the new president of Romania, **Traian Basescu**, on Black Sea security; and Senator **Charles E. Schumer** (D-NY) on China's currency and U.S.-China economic relations. Recently elected Iraqi Prime Minister **Ibrahim al-Jaafari** concluded the program year with an update on Iraq, at which former Representative **Vin Weber** (R-MN) presided.

The Nexus of Science and Foreign Policy

Science and technology concerns are integral to U.S. interests in areas such as national security, international economics, and the environment. **Madeleine K. Albright**, for instance, has commented that 80 percent of the issues she dealt with as secretary of state involved science. The Nexus of Science and Foreign Policy initiative was designed to draw attention to the critical areas in which science and foreign policy intersect.

Shirley Ann Jackson, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and **Benjamin Wu**, assistant secretary of commerce for technology policy, launched the series with a discussion of whether America is losing its competitive edge. Subsequent programs featured Secretary of Energy **Spencer Abraham**,

who spoke about nuclear nonproliferation, and a discussion about the prospects of an international hydrogen economy with Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs **Paula J. Dobriansky** and Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy **David Garman**.

The Nexus of Science and Foreign Policy initiative has also examined bioterrorism and global pandemics, the threat of dirty bombs, the implications of space weapons, the impact of nanotechnology on foreign policy, and the integration of Iraqi scientists into the international community. In the year ahead, the Council will be reaching out to CEOs, government officials, and scientists in an exploration of emerging technologies and their implications for foreign policy.



Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Paula J. Dobriansky and The Economist's Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran at a Nexus of Science and Foreign Policy event.