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# NATIONAL PROGRAM

**T**he National Program provides a forum for members outside of New York and Washington, DC, to discuss pressing issues of the day and to contribute to the Council's work. In addition, the National Program devotes time and energy to connecting with local leaders, college and university professors and students, and others interested in international affairs as part of the Council's outreach mission.

This year the Council offered more than fifty teleconferences and webcasts and held more than 110 sessions across the country, including manuscript-review seminars, roundtables, the national Book Club Series, a film series, and general meetings. The National Program also organized fifty public events that featured Council fellows' books and publications.

At the heart of the National Program are the intimate foreign policy dinner seminars at which Council fellows discuss their research and writing. National members review draft manuscript

chapters, articles, Task Force reports, or Council Special Reports prior to the seminar and contribute their feedback and valuable insights to help the authors or project directors shape the final product. As part of this series, Senior Fellow **Lee Feinstein** met with members in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle to review the draft manuscript of his forthcoming Council Special Report on the United Nations; Nelson and David Rockefeller Senior Fellow for Latin America Studies **Julia E. Sweig** talked with members in Miami and San Francisco about the Council's Latin America Program; and Fellow **Michael A. Levi** reviewed the thesis of his book on nuclear terrorism with members in Boston. Project Directors **Princeton N. Lyman** and **J. Stephen Morrison** and Task Force member **Helene D. Gayle** led a session in Seattle on the work of the Africa Task Force; San Francisco members discussed the findings and prospective recommendations of the Russia Task Force with Task Force member **Coit D. Blacker**, and of the Energy Task Force with Task Force Project Director **David G. Victor** and Task Force members **William K. Reilly**, **Peter Schwartz**, and **James Sweeney**.

The National Program Roundtable Series focused on two themes. "Iraq: The Way Forward" brought sessions led by Council President **Richard N.**



*Council Senior Fellow Walter Russell Mead talks with Alonzo L. McDonald and Linda Tsao Yang during the book fair at the 2006 National Conference.*

## National Conference

This year's National Conference, the premier event of the National Program, brought together 389 participants from around the country and the world to the Council's New York headquarters for two days of discussions with fellow members and other leading thinkers and practitioners. The eleventh National Conference, "New Perspectives on U.S. Foreign Policy: Priorities and Problems in the Next Decade," featured

- ◆ Google's Eric Schmidt and the *New York Times*'s Thomas L. Friedman on U.S. competitiveness and innovation, as part of the Bernard L. Schwartz Lecture on Business and Foreign Policy;
- ◆ The National Security Council's Elliott Abrams and *Newsweek International* Editor Fareed Zakaria with Council President Richard N. Haass on democracy promotion;
- ◆ Presidents of the Federal Reserve Banks Michael H. Moskow, Gary H. Stern, and Janet L. Yellen with Douglas Holtz-Eakin, the director of the Council's Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Goeconomic Studies, on the United States and the global economy;
- ◆ American University's Chair of Islamic Studies Akbar Ahmed and author Karen Armstrong with National Public Radio Foreign Correspondent Deborah S. Amos on the divide between Islam and the West;



Akbar Ahmed and Karen Armstrong.



Janet L. Yellen and Michael H. Moskow.



Leslie H. Gelb and H. R. McMaster.

- ◆ Senator Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC) with NBC News *Weekend Today* Coanchor Campbell Brown on Iraq; and
- ◆ Governors Haley Barbour of Mississippi and Janet A. Napolitano of Arizona, and Mayor William H. White of the City of Houston with NBC News Special Correspondent Tom Brokaw on foreign policy from the state house and city hall.

Members met in smaller regional and topical discussion groups led by Council fellows and other leading scholars. In addition, they had the opportunity to interact with foreign policy experts, military leaders, former high-level government officials, and leaders of non-governmental organizations in Town Halls on

- ◆ Counterterrorism and Intelligence Reform with Lee Cullum, Paul R. Pillar, and Steven Simon;
- ◆ Iraq and the Military with Leslie H. Gelb and H. R. McMaster;
- ◆ Pandemic Flu with Laura L. Eφος, Laurie Garrett, and Eric K. Noji; and
- ◆ The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations in International Crises with Helene D. Gayle, Charles F. MacCormack, and George E. Rupp.



Richard N. Haass, Elliott Abrams, and Fareed Zakaria.



Lindsey O. Graham, Leigh Buchanan Bienen, and Henry S. Bienen.



George E. Rupp, Helene D. Gayle, and Charles F. MacCormack.

## Technology

The National Program uses the latest technology to connect with members from coast to coast and engage them in discussions on current issues and ideas in international affairs. The National Program Conference Call Series, chaired by Council Vice President Irina A. Faskianos, features foreign policy experts and Council fellows. In addition, national members have access to international and domestic policymakers through the teleconferences and webcasts of New York and Washington, DC, meetings. The audio and video files of on-the-record Council meetings are posted on the Council website, CFR.org, so that members and the general public can listen to and watch these meetings on their computers or portable media devices. These files are also available as podcasts and may be automatically downloaded to a computer, iPod, or MP3 player through an RSS feed that can be accessed at CFR.org, the iTunes Music Store, or Yahoo! Podcasts. Select files are available through Princeton's University Channel.

**Haass** to Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Miami, London, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. In "Emerging Trends in U.S. Foreign Policy," national members explored a range of issues, including the Bush administration's foreign policy, with Council Vice President and Director of Studies **James M. Lindsay**, and a national security strategy for the twenty-first century with Council Board member **Anne-Marie Slaughter** in Dallas; the rise of China with C. V. Starr Senior Fellow **Elizabeth C. Economy**, and the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq with Brigadier General **Mark E. O'Neill** in Atlanta; U.S. post-conflict capabilities with General **John W. Vessey** Senior Fellow and Center for Preventive Action Director **William L. Nash**, and U.S. competitiveness with Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies Director **Douglas Holtz-Eakin** in Los Angeles; the European Union with Senior Fellow **Charles A. Kupchan**, and the links between HIV and national security with Senior Fellow **Laurie Garrett** in San Francisco and London. International Advisory Board members **Yuan Ming**

and **Luiz Felipe Lampreia** met with Council members in Atlanta, Boston, and Dallas. Author **Reza Aslan** led discussions in Boston and San Francisco on the future of Islam, as part of the Council's Religion and Foreign Policy Initiative.

The National Program launched a Film Series, including screenings of the Kunhardt Productions documentary *The Road to 9/11* in seven cities, and Home Box Office's *Last Best Chance* in six cities. The screenings were followed by discussions led by Council members and local experts, including **John H. Kelly** and **William E. Hoehn Jr.** in Atlanta; **Jessica E. Stern** in Boston; **Robert Pape** and **Gary Samore** in Chicago; **Lawrence G. Wright** and **Jay T. Young** in Dallas; **James P. Rubin** and **John B. Ritch III** in London; **James E. Dalton** in Los Angeles; **Joseph F. Hoar** in San Diego; and **Thomas B. Hayward** and **Frederic A. Morris** in Seattle.

The National Program organized meetings and public programs across the country to highlight newly published books by Council fellows, including **Rachel Bronson's** *Thicker Than Oil*, **Benn Steil** and **Robert E. Litan's** *Financial Statecraft*, and **Julia E. Sweig's** *Friendly Fire*; the reports of Council-sponsored Independent Task Forces on Africa, Russia, post-conflict capabilities, and Arab reform; and the *Foreign Affairs/Public Agenda* survey on public opinion, featured in *Foreign Affairs*, with **Daniel Yankelovich** and **James F. Hoge Jr.** The Council cooperated with local foreign policy organizations including the American Committees on Foreign Relations, the Bilateral U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations, the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations, the Houston World Affairs Council, the Initiative for Global Development, the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, the Pacific Council on International Policy, the Southern Center for International Studies, the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, the World Affairs Council of Northern California, and the World Affairs Council of Oregon.

The Council, along with the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute Policy Forum, cosponsored the national release of the report of the Task

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Force on Arab Reform, which featured Task Force Chairs **Madeleine K. Albright** and **Vin Weber**, as well as Task Force Project Director **Steven A. Cook** and Task Force member **Abdeslam E. Maghraoui**. The National Program also worked with colleges and universities including Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government; Morehouse College; Northwestern University; Occidental College; Pepperdine University; Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs; Stanford University; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, San Diego; the University of Miami's Center for Hemispheric Policy; and the University of Washington.

As part of the Council's Book Club Series, which is designed to stimulate debate and build a greater sense of community among the membership, the National Program organized sessions on Thomas L. Friedman's *The World Is Flat* and George Packer's *The Assassins' Gate*. The following members led and hosted: **William J. Long** and **Judith B. Milestone** in Atlanta; **Joseph S. Nye Jr.** in Boston; **Henry H. Perritt Jr.** in Chicago; **James Frank Hollifield** and **Patricia M. Patterson** in Dallas; **Mary Elise Sarotte**, **Christopher B. Stone**, and **Jonathan N. Bell** in London; **Barry Sanders** and **Arthur N. Greenberg** in Los Angeles; **Mark B. Rosenberg** and **Adrienne Arsht** in Miami; **Roy A. Herberger** and **Richard Malley** in Phoenix; **Michael P. Peters** and **Patricia A. McFate** in Santa Fe; **Jane M. Wales** in San Francisco; and **Ted Van Dyk**, **Donald C. Hellmann**, and **Helene D. Gayle** in Seattle. The National Program also organized a conference call with author George Packer, through which all national members had the opportunity to participate in the Book Club Series.

The National Program, made possible in part by a generous grant from **Mimi and Peter E. Haas**,



*Council Board member Lee Cullum with Michael P. Peters.*

will continue to engage national members and other community leaders either face-to-face or virtually in substantive and sustained conversations on U.S. foreign policy and international affairs. The vitality of the National Program depends on the involvement of national members—all of whom cannot be recognized in these pages—but a special note of thanks goes to Council Board member **Lee Cullum** of Dallas for her leadership as she concludes her service on the Board.

#### IN MEMORIAM

### **Peter E. Haas 1918–2005**

The Council is deeply saddened by the loss of longtime Council member and friend Peter E. Haas, chairman emeritus of Levi Strauss & Co. Although he will be greatly missed, Peter's memory will live on through the National Program, which he and his wife, Mimi L. Haas, supported over the years. Their generosity has helped build and expand the National Program and transform the Council into a truly national organization.