
NEW YORK MEETINGS PROGRAM

One of the Council's main functions is to provide a nonpartisan forum for informed foreign policy debate. Panel discussions, interviews, lectures, book clubs, and film screenings bring Council members together with senior government officials, world leaders, academic experts, and prominent thinkers to discuss the major foreign policy issues of our time. This year, the New York Meetings Program organized more than 130 events, with a strong focus on Iraq and other developments in the Middle East, U.S. intelligence, and the war on terrorism.

Fifteen heads of state and chief ministers offered Council members their unique perspectives on world events. Mexican President **Vicente Fox** presented his view on Mexico's economy and democracy, Turkish Prime Minister **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** assessed the recent history and current state of U.S.-Turkey relations, Nigeria's President **Olusegun Obasanjo** discussed corruption and other challenges facing his country, and Spanish Prime Minister **José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero** focused on Spain's commitment to fighting terrorism. Insights from the Middle East were provided by Saudi Foreign Minister **Prince Saud al-Faisal**, who made the case for fighting extremism, and Qatari Foreign Minister **Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabir al-Thani**, who outlined his view of

a strategic partnership with the United States. Pakistan's Prime Minister **Shaukat Aziz** addressed the state of Pakistan-U.S. relations, and Afghan Foreign Minister **Abdullah Abdullah** discussed the political and security situation in his country. Among the speakers from Asia were Indonesian President **Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono**, Indian Foreign Minister **K. Natwar Singh**, and South Korean Foreign Minister **Ban Ki-Moon**. Former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights **Mary Robinson** addressed members at a half-day symposium on maternal health and foreign policy.

Council members also had the opportunity to exchange ideas with numerous current or former U.S. government officials. Former President **Jimmy Carter**



Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono



Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson



Director of National Intelligence John D. Negroponte



U.S. Senator John F. Kerry



Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III

The Meetings Program organized more than 130 events, with a focus on Iraq and other Middle East developments, U.S. intelligence, and the war on terrorism.

assessed obstacles and chances for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Secretary of Defense **Donald H. Rumsfeld** outlined the challenges for U.S. forces in today's media age, Attorney General **Alberto R. Gonzales** engaged members in a discussion about the war on terrorism, and Secretary of Homeland Security **Michael Chertoff** reviewed his priorities for maritime, air, and land security. In addition, Director of National Intelligence **John D. Negroponte** discussed challenges for U.S. intelligence policy, Undersecretary of State **Karen P. Hughes** briefed members on transformational public diplomacy, and Senator **John F. Kerry** (D-MA) explored the issue of security in a post-9/11 world. Special insights into the future of the U.S. military were provided by a panel of the four service chiefs: General **T. Michael Moseley**, Admiral **Michael G. Mullen**, General **Peter J. Schoomaker**, and General **Michael W. Hagee**.

The Council's History Makers series, sponsored by Home Box Office (HBO), completed its third year, featuring former Secretary of State **James A. Baker III**, former UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process **Terje Roed-Larsen**, now with the International Peace Academy, and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General **Richard B. Myers**.

A new series of meetings titled "Iraq: The Way Forward" examined the challenges and policy options for the United States in Iraq. Council Senior Fellows **Stephen Biddle**, **Noah Feldman**, and **Steven Simon** assessed the situation three years after the invasion, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister **Ahmad Chalabi** offered his view on the future of Iraq, and **Hajim al-Hassani**, president of the Iraqi National Assembly, spoke about the difficulties of forming a national-unity government. Senator **Joseph R. Biden** (D-DE) outlined his conditions for a partial withdrawal of U.S. troops, and former Representative of the United Kingdom in Iraq **Jeremy Greenstock** explored prospects for economic reconstruction. Professor **Francis Fukuyama** discussed the U.S. strategy of bringing democracy to the Middle

HBO Film Screenings

Continuing a successful partnership, the Council offers its members special previews of thought-provoking movies produced by Home Box Office. These highly popular screenings constitute an important means by which the Council can advance its mission to help the public better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries. This year, the featured films addressed the issues of nuclear terrorism and HIV/AIDS. *Last Best Chance*, produced with support from the Nuclear Threat Initiative, illustrates the danger posed by unsecured nuclear weapons and materials around the world. The screening was followed by remarks by Ted Turner and Warren Buffett and a discussion with former Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Senator Richard G. Lugar (R-IN). *Yesterday*, a film set in contemporary South Africa, gave Council members a chance to follow the struggles of a young mother with AIDS trying to secure her daughter's future. The film, produced in conjunction with the Global Business Coalition for HIV/AIDS and Artists for a New South Africa, puts a human face on the AIDS crisis and the politics surrounding the issue.



Council Board member Fouad Ajami with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Chalabi.



Tom Brokaw, special correspondent for NBC News and Council Board member (center), moderates a discussion with General T. Michael Moseley, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force; General Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps; General Peter J. Schoomaker, chief of staff of the U.S. Army; and Admiral Michael G. Mullen, chief of operations, U.S. Navy, at the annual John Train Lecture on the Future of the U.S. Military.

East, and journalist **Michael R. Gordon** and former Marine Corps General **Bernard E. Trainor** offered their analysis of the war. In other meetings related to Iraq, former National Intelligence Officer **Paul R. Pillar** spoke about U.S. intelligence leading up to the invasion, and the authors of the Pentagon study on the inner workings of Saddam Hussein's regime unveiled their findings. **Paul A. Volcker** briefed members on his conclusions as chair of the UN Independent Inquiry Committee of the Oil-for-Food Program, and **Hans Blix** discussed his work as chairman of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission.

More than twenty authors were invited to discuss their books on topics ranging from America's role in world affairs to anti-Americanism, the state of transatlantic relations, and the war on terrorism. Pro-

fessor **John Lewis Gaddis** unveiled new insights into the Cold War, retired General **Anthony C. Zinni** explained how the United States can effectively use its power to secure peace in the world, French philosopher **Bernard-Henri Lévy** offered his reflections on contemporary America, reporter **James Risen** discussed his insights into U.S. intelligence, and terrorism expert **Peter Bergen** shared his knowledge of Osama bin Laden.

This year's program also featured a broad variety of speakers focusing on business, financial, and economic issues. A panel of four former chairmen of the Securities and Exchange Commission—**Richard C. Breeden**, **Arthur Levitt Jr.**, **Harvey L. Pitt**, and **William H. Donaldson**—engaged members in a discussion about regulatory standards in the financial markets. European Central Bank President **Jean-Claude Trichet** explained why Europe needs structural reforms, former Mexican President **Ernesto Zedillo** led a debate about the Doha round of international trade negotiations, and National Economic Council Director **Allan B. Hubbard** spoke on the state of American competitiveness. The popular World Economic Update Series, moderated by **Daniel K. Tarullo**, continued in its eighth year, featuring a special edition on the challenges awaiting the new chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Ben Bernanke.

Regional updates included a discussion with Secretary-General **José Miguel Insulza** of the Organiza-



Malcolm H. Wiener and Michael F. Oppenheimer with speaker Nancy E. Soderberg of the International Crisis Group before a meeting on "American Power: Its Uses and Consequences."

Symposia on Iran, Shiism, and Homeland Security

During the 2005–2006 program year, three special half-day symposia brought experts and policymakers together for in-depth discussions of crucial foreign policy issues. In a widely acclaimed symposium on Iran's nuclear program, leading experts on nonproliferation and the Middle East assessed the current status of Iran's nuclear development; discussed the political, social, and historical forces behind the country's nuclear program; and debated policy options for the United States. In another half-day event, analysts and policymakers examined the impact of the rise of Shiite power in the Middle East and its effect on U.S. policy toward the region. A third symposium, cosponsored by the Council of American Ambassadors and the Center for Security Policy, focused on the challenges of preserving an open society in the age of terrorism. Legal and policy experts, including Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ), discussed the implications of openness versus security, and New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly offered his assessment of today's challenges for homeland security.



Deborah S. Amos, foreign correspondent for National Public Radio (second from left), moderates a discussion on "Iran's Motives and Strategies" with (left to right) Mahmood Sariolghalam of the National University of Iran, Patrick Clawson of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Karim Sadjadpour of the International Crisis Group (videoconferenced from Washington, DC) at a symposium on Iran's nuclear program.

tion of American States; a panel of experts on North Korea's nuclear brinkmanship; perspectives on Afghanistan, India, and Russia; and various debates on the future of the Middle East peace process. China figured as a prominent topic in meetings with former Hong Kong Chief Executive **C. H. Tung**, Taipei Mayor **Ma Ying-jeou**, and Senator **Max Baucus** (D-MT). In another highlight, **Bono**, lead singer of the rock band U2 and cofounder of DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa), spoke to members and their children about his pioneering work in Africa.

A series of discussions focusing on the nexus of religion and foreign policy continued in its second year, featuring the Reverend **Rick Warren**, founding pastor of Saddleback Church; the Reverend Dr. **Richard D. Land**, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; and former Secretary of State **Madeleine K. Albright**. Another series of meetings—also in its second year—explored the role of science and technology in foreign policy. It included events on nanotechnology, HIV and national security, and China and the

Internet, and a day-long conference on the threat of pandemic flu.

This year's Book Club Series—in which a limited number of participants can enjoy an informal discussion in a salon-like setting—featured Thomas L. Friedman's *The World Is Flat* and George Packer's *The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq*.



CNN Senior Political Analyst **Jeff Greenfield** speaking with Good Night, and Good Luck Director and Cowriter **George Clooney**.