
WASHINGTON PROGRAM

The nation's capital provides a unique backdrop for the Council's Washington Program to undertake a rich variety of programming and outreach. Whether in small group settings that function as a laboratory of sorts for new foreign policy thinking, or in large Council meetings where the issues of today—and tomorrow—are discussed, the Washington Program is cementing its reputation as the place for intensive, deliberative, and fruitful discussions on foreign policy. By bringing together representatives from Congress, the administration, the diplomatic corps, and the business community with opinion leaders and Council members, and by drawing on the Council's robust intellectual resources, the Washington Program is facilitating conversations and building relationships to bridge partisan gaps and foster a vibrant and effective foreign policy debate.



Zhou Wenzhong, ambassador of China to the United States, with Zbigniew Brzezinski, counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and former national security adviser, at a discussion of U.S.-China relations as part of the Washington Program's Embassy Lunch Series.

The Council's diverse membership and nonpartisan tradition make it well situated to focus attention on the need for renewed bipartisanship. The Washington Program's dedication to bipartisan efforts can be seen in its successful Capitol Hill outreach; special programming for senior congressional staff, including chiefs of staff from both chambers; and the resources it provides for members of Congress, from specialized individual briefings to roundtable discussions on pressing foreign policy issues.

The Council also seeks to serve as a resource for the broader foreign policy community in Washington and has expanded its outreach efforts to the diplomatic community,

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Gabriel B. Pellathy speaks with Representative John Murtha (D-PA).

engaging senior embassy officials on a regular basis. Council members were fortunate to be hosted once again by several ambassadors for off-the-record discussions on a number of bilateral policy issues. Over the past year, discussions were held with Ambassadors **Aziz Mekouar** of Morocco, **Fritz Kwabena Poku** of Ghana, **Roberto Abdenur** of Brazil, **Zhou Wenzhong** of China, **Wolfgang Ischinger** of Germany, **Giovanni Castellaneta** of Italy, **Nasser bin Hamad al-Khalifa** of Qatar, and **Alexandros P. Mallias** of Greece.

The Council's convening power helped forge a program of first-rate meetings, anchored by four series:

- ◆ The Nexus of Science, Technology, and Foreign Policy;
- ◆ Iraq: The Way Forward;
- ◆ The Nexus of Religion and Foreign Policy; and
- ◆ India's Rise.

The Nexus of Science, Technology, and Foreign Policy Initiative aims to draw attention to those

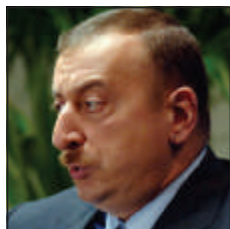
Council Seeks to Bridge Chasm Between the Parties

In the wake of the divisive November 2004 election, the Council launched a new initiative aimed at fostering bipartisan discussion of foreign policy on Capitol Hill at both staff and member levels, in the White House, and within its own programming.

Nancy E. Roman, vice president and director of the Council's Washington Program and leader of the initiative, wrote a Council Special Report on bipartisanship, which concluded that collaboration between the parties produces better (although not necessarily more centrist) policy. It attributed much of the breakdown in bipartisanship to social and political changes that have made it harder for members of Congress and the administration to get to know one another and made a series of suggestions about how to bridge the divide. "What we really learned, however, is that someone has to do the heavy lifting of getting Democrats and Republicans in the same room together to have policy discussions in a nonpartisan environment," Roman said.

To that end, the Council hosted two high-level bipartisan dinners. The first, led by Madeleine K. Albright, former secretary of state, and Kenneth M. Duberstein, former presidential chief of staff, centered on Iraq. Joined by members of Congress from each party, Council Adjunct Senior Fellow Vali R. Nasr and Phebe A. Marr led a robust conversation about bridging the Sunni-Shia divide. In March, former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) invited a group of Council members to his home. He, former Representative Vin Weber (R-MN), and Council Senior Fellow Ray Takeyh led a conversation about U.S. policy toward Iran.

The Council also brought together Democratic and Republican chiefs of staff for discussions largely focused on China, and it is working to develop bipartisan working groups on the environment and trade.



*President of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev*



*Undersecretary of State for
Democracy and Global Affairs
Paula J. Dobriansky*



*Zakia Hakki, Iraqi Council
of Representatives*



*Richard D. Land, Southern
Baptist Convention*



*Deputy Secretary of State
Robert B. Zoellick*

critical areas where science and foreign policy intersect and explore the implications of emerging technologies on trade, security, U.S. competitiveness, and global health. The initiative, begun in the 2004–2005 program year, has held fourteen meetings in Washington, including seven during this program year. Highlights include meetings on the ways in which new technology is changing the intelligence community, terrorist use of the Internet, and China’s growing clout in high technology.

In the “Iraq: The Way Forward” series, policy practitioners, journalists, military officials, Iraqi officials, and others explored different options for how to proceed constructively in that country. The fourteen meetings in this series addressed a wide range of views on how to move ahead in Iraq, including Council Senior Fellow **Stephen Biddle’s** warning against viewing Iraq in the same rubric as Vietnam; a

discussion with Iraqi Minister of Municipalities and Public Works **Nasreen Barwari** on issues of local governance and priorities in terms of spending and manpower for the crucial task of rebuilding infrastructure and services; the perspectives of a panel of female Iraqi politicians and activists, including Iraqi Council of Representatives member **Zakia Hakki**, on the role of women in rebuilding Iraq; and former Presidential Envoy to Iraq **Robert D. Blackwill’s** argument that the new Iraqi government cannot succeed without an enduring American commitment.

The Council’s emphasis on the intersection of religion and foreign policy has led it to look at the various ways in which religious beliefs play into pressing global concerns. Topics addressed in this series include evangelicals’ views of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East with the Reverend Dr. **Richard D. Land**, president of the

Council Reaches Out to Capitol Hill

The Council has ramped up its activity on Capitol Hill to serve as a resource to legislators engaged in the foreign policy process. “The Congress plays an important role in policy issues ranging from India’s nuclear deal to the handling of port security, so it is critical to engage members,” said Nancy E. Roman, vice president and director of the Washington Program.

A number of efforts have raised the Council’s profile on Capitol Hill, including:

- ◆ a standing Friday Roundtable discussion with senior foreign policy staff;
- ◆ a series of foreign policy briefings for House chiefs of staff;
- ◆ a series of dinner briefings on China for Senate chiefs of staff;

- ◆ an Expert Bank consisting of Council members who provide “on-demand” briefings for members of Congress either in preparation for congressional delegations or while drafting or deciding on foreign policy initiatives; and
- ◆ breakfast meetings with new members of Congress to discuss foreign policy issues.

Members of Congress who have participated in the breakfast series include: Dan Boren (D-OK), Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Mike Conaway (R-TX), Jim Costa (D-CA), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Geoffrey C. Davis (R-KY), Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE), Vito Fossella (R-NY), Virginia Foxx (R-NC), Dan Lungren (R-CA), Connie Mack (R-FL), Tom Price (R-GA), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), John J.H. “Joe” Schwarz (R-MI), and Ellen O. Tauscher (D-CA).

Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; Cardinal **Theodore E. McCarrick**, archbishop of Washington, discussing the foreign policy priorities of Pope Benedict XVI; and Sunni-Shia religious rivalry with Council Adjunct Senior Fellow **Vali R. Nasr**.

The "India's Rise" series, following in the footsteps of last year's popular "China's Rise" series, examined the economic, strategic, and political implications of India's growing global importance. Members were fortunate to hear both the U.S. and the Indian perspectives in this series, and much discussion focused on the proposed U.S.-India nuclear deal.

President **George W. Bush** spoke to Council members on the progress of the war in Iraq. As only the second sitting president to address the Council (the first was Bill Clinton in 1998), he offered an assessment of the economic, political, and security situation on the ground, describing the progress in Iraq as slow and steady but hampered by corruption, the infiltration of militia groups into the security forces, and terrorism. Other administration officials who spoke to Council members at general meetings in Washington included Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs **R. Nicholas Burns**, who spoke first on India's rise and again after the president's trip to India; Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs **Timothy D. Adams**, who spoke with Council members on the China currency issue shortly after accompanying Treasury Secretary John Snow to China; Undersecretary of Defense for Policy **Eric S. Edelman** and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury **Robert M. Kimmitt**, each of whom spoke as part of the Council's "Iraq: The Way Forward" series; Deputy Secretary of State **Robert B. Zoellick**, who talked about pressing foreign policy issues, focusing on Sudan and China; and Undersecretary of State for Management **Henrietta Holsman Fore**, who discussed transformational diplomacy.

The Washington Program also undertook a series of briefings for executive-branch undersecretaries: a small number of Council members and fellows engaged undersecretaries and other senior administration officials at their request on topics including pandemic health threats, the transatlantic relationship, and the global financial architecture.



Jamie S. Gorelick, partner at WilmerHale; Carla A. Hills, Council vice chairman and CEO of Hills & Company; Thomas S. Foley, partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; and Nancy E. Roman, vice president and director of the Council's Washington Program.

Eleven sitting members of Congress also addressed Council members, including Senator **Joseph I. Lieberman** (D-CT) on the U.S.-China energy relationship; Senators **Barack Obama** (D-IL) and **Richard G. Lugar** (R-IN) on Russia and nonproliferation; Senator **Chuck Hagel** (R-NE) on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East; Representative **Jane Harman** (D-CA), along with former Acting Director of Central Intelligence **John E. McLaughlin**, on intelligence support to the military; Representative **Jim Kolbe** (R-AZ) on U.S. foreign development assistance; and Representative **Dan Lungren** (R-CA) on wiretapping and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. As part of the "Iraq: The Way Forward" series, Senators **John Warner** (R-VA) and **Jack Reed** (D-RI) appeared together. Their colleagues Senator **Carl M. Levin** (D-MI) and Representative **John Murtha** (D-PA) also participated in the series.

Members were also fortunate to hear from a number of distinguished foreign dignitaries, including heads of state **Yoweri Museveni** of Uganda, **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** of Liberia, and **Ilham Aliyev** of Azerbaijan. Other speaker highlights included **Ivo Sanader**, prime minister of Croatia; **John Reid**, the United Kingdom's secretary of state for defence; Algeria's foreign minister, **Mohammed Bedjaoui**; **Haruhiko Kuroda**, head of the Asian Development Bank; and **Sergei Kiriyyenko**, director of the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency.