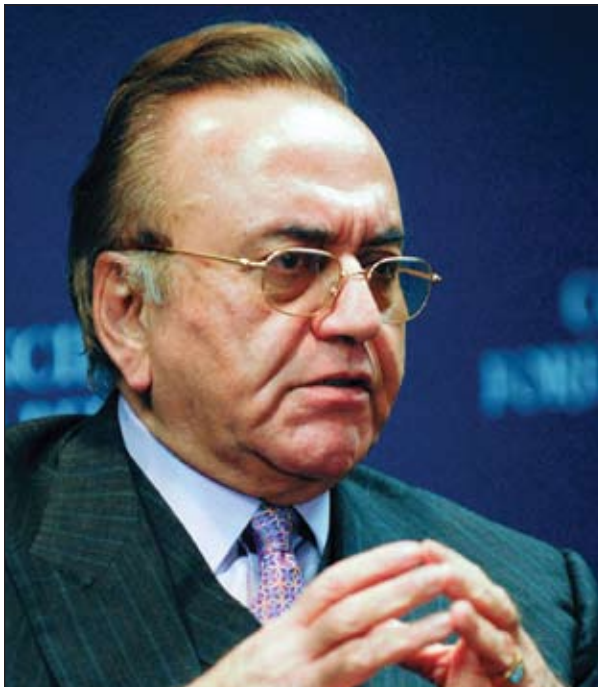


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# WASHINGTON PROGRAM

**T**he Council's Washington Program is a growing and multifaceted presence in the nation's capital. Nearly a third of the Council's membership is located in the Washington area, and members are part of a dynamic program that attracts new ideas and serves to advance the policy debate. The program's goal is to use the Council's convening power and intellectual resources to help inform not only its members, but also Congress, the administration, the media, the diplomatic corps, and the business community. Policymakers regularly turn to the Washington Program for guidance, to test new ideas, and to engage with experts as they develop policy initiatives.



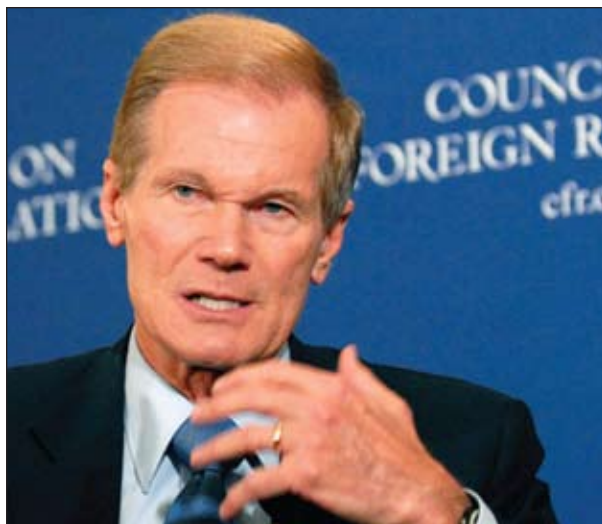
*Pakistan's foreign minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri discusses developments in Pakistan and the region with Council members.*

In the words of **Nancy E. Roman**, vice president and director of the Washington Program, "Ideas matter, and they matter more when they are delivered to the individuals who are in a position to use them as they navigate difficult policy decisions." Through its meetings, the Washington Program seeks either to bring new information to the table or to reframe the discussion with an eye toward moving the policy debate forward. One such meeting, a not-for-attribution conversation with the lead State and Defense Department officials in charge of setting up the new U.S. Africa Command, demonstrates the success of this approach. The speakers sought input from Council members in a discussion of the policy decisions they will face as they establish the new command, and the member feedback inspired the speakers to pursue a follow-up meeting to continue the conversation.

In a similar vein, Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs **Paula J. Dobriansky** requested that a group of Council members convene to discuss issues related to establishing the rule of law. The group, which met over the course of the program year under the direction of **Kristin M. Lord**, associate dean at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, briefed Dobriansky on its findings in May.

Even beyond these examples, Washington programming continues to flourish. The "Iraq: The Way

*“Ideas matter, and they matter more when they are carried to the individuals who are in a position to use them as they navigate difficult policy decisions.”*



Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) discusses his controversial trip to Syria.

Forward” series explored U.S. policy options there and featured the U.S. ambassador to Iraq **Zalmay M. Khalilzad**, Senator **Joseph R. Biden (D-DE)**, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General **Peter Pace**, and the senior adviser to the secretary of state and coordinator for Iraq, Ambassador **David M. Satterfield**. The Washington Program also responded to the release of the Iraq Study Group report with a videoconferenced Town Hall meeting (in conjunction with the New York Meetings Program) on the day following the report’s release. The next day, the Council hosted Iraq Study Group member **Lawrence S. Eagleburger** and **Christopher Kojm**, the principal author of the report, for a not-for-attribution discussion in Washington.

In December, over 140 Council members and their high school- and college-age guests attended a “Daughters and Sons” event that focused on the crisis in Darfur. Speakers included **John Prendergast**, senior adviser at the International Crisis Group, and student activist **Erin Mazursky**, founder of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur. **Joey Cheek**, an Olympic gold medalist who donated his prize money to the Darfur campaign, was a special guest in the audience. The discussion of events taking place in Darfur con-

tinued when the president’s special envoy for Sudan, **Andrew S. Natsios**, spoke on the subject in February.

This year, a new series titled “Voices of the Next Generation” was established. Aimed at drawing bright young thinkers in international relations to share their ideas with Council members, the series featured **Ian Bremmer**, author of *The J Curve*; **David Kilcullen**, an Australian anthropologist and army officer who is

## The Council and Congress

The Council’s Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy Program engages members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate and their staff members in study and dialogue on a wide array of international issues. It provides a forum for an important group of participants in the foreign-policy-making process and offers distinctive, nonpartisan services in convening policymakers, experts, and leaders from many fields. The Council’s work on Capitol Hill includes:

- ◆ A long-standing Friday roundtable discussion among senior foreign affairs aides;
- ◆ Expert Bank briefings by Council members for lawmakers who are traveling or brushing up on foreign policy issues;
- ◆ Breakfasts with new members of Congress on the foreign policy topic of their choosing;
- ◆ Briefings for House and Senate chiefs of staff; and
- ◆ Bipartisan salon dinners that bring together Council members and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to discuss a pressing international concern.

The benefits of these exchanges to both the Council and Congress are many. For example, in April the Council concluded a two-year program on China for Senate chiefs of staff, with both sides heralding the series of dinner discussions as an effective means of not only coming up to speed, but meaningfully interacting with colleagues from across the aisle. They voted to continue the briefings on a broad range of foreign policy issues over the course of the next year.



*Evan G. Greenberg, China's assistant minister of foreign affairs He Ya-Fei, Council Vice President and Washington Program Director Nancy E. Roman, and Kevin G. Nealer share a laugh before a general meeting on U.S.-China bilateral relations.*



*Iraq Study Group member and former secretary of state Lawrence S. Eagleburger discusses the study group's findings after the release of its report.*

now part of the Iraq “brain trust” advising General David H. Petraeus; and **Peter Beinart**, former editor of the *New Republic* and now a Council senior fellow.

The Council’s Nexus of Science, Technology, and Foreign Policy initiative focused largely on energy. Venture capitalist and ethanol proponent **Vinod Khosla** addressed the membership on market obstacles and incentives for alternative energies. Building upon this discussion and others, the Washington Program organized a half-day symposium, “Panacea or Pipedream: Energy Policy and the Search for Alternatives,” that featured energy experts from the business and policy-making fields, including **James E. Rogers**, chairman, president, and CEO of Duke Energy Corporation; former senator **Timothy E. Wirth**; the *Economist*’s **Vijay V. Vaitheeswaran**; and **John E. Bryson**, chairman, president, and CEO of Edison International.

The Nexus of Religion and Foreign Policy series kicked off the program year by featuring a discussion with former secretary of state **Madeleine K. Albright** on the role of religion in U.S. foreign policy. Sheikh **Hamza Yusuf**, founder of the nation’s first Muslim seminary, talked about Islam in America, and **Luis**

## Building Bridges to the Diplomatic Community

The Council's diplomatic outreach positions the institution as an important resource for the diplomatic community by fostering exchange between foreign representatives and the highest levels of the American business, political, and academic communities. It is the belief of Council leadership that such discussions lead to more informed policy—at home and abroad.

This year the Council continued its long-standing Embassy Lunch series, with ambassadors from Turkey, Pakistan, Syria, Nigeria, Venezuela, Indonesia, Japan, and Poland hosting Council members in their residences or embassies for intimate, not-for-attribution discussions. In addition, these ambassadors and other senior embassy

officials were invited to attend select general meetings, providing them with a chance to further interact with Council members and imbuing the discussions with their unique insights.

Building on the success of the Embassy Lunch series, the Council has begun a series of briefings exclusively for deputy chiefs of mission (DCMs)—the second-in-command officials at an embassy and the gatekeepers of information for ambassadors. DCMs came together several times to learn about issues ranging from trade in the 110th Congress to nuclear energy, to U.S. policy toward China.

**E. Lugo**, director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, spoke on the rise of Pentecostalism in the developing world. The Evangelicals and Foreign Policy roundtable—a group of about twenty leaders of evangelical organizations and congregations—held several discussions on Islam, as well as other sessions devoted to Iraq, the U.S. role in the world, and American exceptionalism.

The Council continued to engage policymakers on Capitol Hill, and the benefits were mutual. Senior Fellow **Julia E. Sweig** briefed members of a congressional delegation before their trip to Cuba. After the trip two participants, Representatives **Jo Ann Emerson** (R-MO) and **James P. McGovern** (D-MA), returned to the Council for a discussion of their findings. Senator **Bill Nelson** (D-FL) also visited the Council after a controversial trip to Syria, and sixteen new members of Congress were briefed by Council members on a variety of foreign policy topics.

The opportunities for interaction among members and policymakers that the Washington Program provides has helped increase member participation over the last year. With so many varied activities, one of the challenges in Washington has been finding sufficient space for Council discussions, roundtables, and other meetings. That, and a desire to establish a footprint in the nation's capital, drove the search for a new Washington office, which will be located at 1777 F Street, NW. The building, developed by “Boss”

Shepherd, an early regional governor of the District of Columbia, is just a block from the Old Executive Office Building, diagonally across from the World Bank, and five blocks from the State Department. The newly renovated building will provide an even more vibrant and convenient place for Council members to interact with one another and with the foreign policy community at large.



*Sheikh Hamza Yusuf discusses Islam in America as part of the Nexus of Religion and Foreign Policy series.*