

New York Meetings Program

The New York Meetings Program provides a nonpartisan forum for Council members to engage in informed foreign policy discussions with world leaders, policymakers, academic experts, and renowned thinkers. This year, it offered more than 150 events, including interviews, panel discussions, symposia, screenings, book clubs, conference calls, and town halls. These focused on a range of regional and topical issues including Campaign 2008, the global economy, climate change, and the continuing conflict in Iraq.

The Council had the privilege of hosting more than twenty-five heads of state and senior foreign government officials throughout the year. Prime Minister **Nuri al-Maliki** of Iraq addressed the future of his nation and its security, and Prime Minister **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** of Turkey discussed his country's possible membership in the European Union. The foreign ministers of France and Italy, **Bernard Kouchner** and **Massimo D'Alema**, provided insights from Europe. India's minister of external affairs **Pranab Mukherjee** focused his remarks on the future of U.S.-India relations, and former prime minister of Pakistan **Benazir Bhutto** presented her vision for Pakistan before returning to her country from exile. Canada's prime minister **Stephen Harper** offered his thoughts on the contributions of NAFTA, and President **Álvaro Uribe Vélez** of Colombia spoke about security and development in his country. Nigeria's president **Umaru Musa Yar'Adua** and Sudan's foreign minister **Lam Akol Ajawin** addressed the challenges facing their countries and the entire continent of Africa. From Asia, speakers included China's



Top: Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada with president Marie-Josée Kravis.

Bottom: Council Board member Maurice R. Greenberg with China's minister of foreign affairs Yang Jiechi.

minister of foreign affairs **Yang Jiechi** and South Korea's minister of foreign affairs and trade **Song Min-soon**. UN secretary-general **Ban Ki-moon** spoke on development issues and offered perspectives from the United Nations.

Numerous policymakers took the time to address New York members on a variety of issues. Director of the Central Intelligence Agency **Michael V. Hayden** and Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation **Robert S. Mueller III** each elaborated on his agency's role in combating terrorism. Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice** addressed members on continuity and change in U.S. foreign policy as part of the fortieth anniversary of the International Affairs Fellowship Program. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs **R. Nicholas Burns** offered his thoughts on the U.S. strategic relationship with India and the nuclear accord. Senator **Joseph R. Biden Jr.** (D-DE) spoke about the foreign policy challenges facing America, with particular emphasis on Pakistan and Afghanistan. Senator **James H. Webb Jr.** (D-VA) engaged members in a conversation on restoring America's standing in the world and the direction of national security efforts. **Jendayi Frazer**, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, outlined U.S. policy toward Africa and the violence in Kenya following the election there. U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations **Zalmay M. Khalilzad** shared his views on the relationship between the United States and the United Nations.

The state of the global economy factored heavily into the year's programming, with more than twenty events addressing issues such as

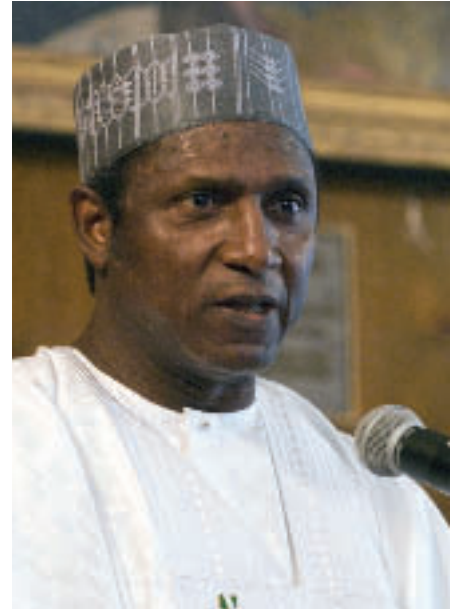
sovereign wealth funds, the global credit crunch, the falling dollar, the rising cost of oil and food, and micro-finance. The Council hosted officials from the United States and abroad, from U.S. treasury deputy secretary **Robert M. Kimmitt** to France's minister of finance **Christine Lagarde**. The popular World Economic Update series continued in its tenth year, featuring leading U.S. economists and their insights into the world economy.

The 2008 presidential campaign made its way into many discussions. Challenges facing the next administration were addressed by the Pew Research Center's president, **Andrew Kohut**, Council Senior Fellow and former presidential speechwriter **Michael J. Gerson**, and former assistant secretary of state for public affairs **James P. Rubin**. Pollsters **Kellyanne Conway**, **Geoffrey Garin**, and **Douglas Schoen** evaluated the role of foreign policy in the campaign. Council Board member and Harvard Kennedy School professor **Joseph S. Nye Jr.** spoke about the importance of presidential leadership during a discussion of his new book, *The Powers to Lead*. Presidential historian **Michael R. Beschloss** carried this theme forward as he reflected on past presidents during a discussion of his book, *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America 1789–1989*, as part of the Council's Daughters and Sons series for the high school and college-age children and grandchildren of members.

The conflict in Iraq and unrest in the Middle East continued to generate discussion and debate. Retired U.S. Army general **Barry R. McCaffrey** gave his assessment of the situation on the ground on the fifth anniversary of the start of the war

Addressing the State of the Economy

Meetings on the state of the global economy remained some of the most highly attended events in New York. The World Economic Update series continued in its tenth year moderated by Daniel K. Tarullo. Among the featured speakers were Stephen S. Roach of Morgan Stanley Asia, Peter Hooper of Deutsche Bank Securities, Laurence H. Meyer of Macroeconomic Advisers, LLC, Joyce Chang of JPMorgan Chase & Company, and Ethan S. Harris of Lehman Brothers. The Council hosted three officials from the Treasury Department, including Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. Members heard from EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson, who addressed globalization, multilateralism, and trade, and U.S. Securities and Exchange commissioner Paul S. Atkins, who spoke about securities litigation. This year's Bernard L. Schwartz Lecture featured John T. Chambers, chairman and chief executive officer of Cisco Systems Ltd., who offered his views on what businesses need to know to stay competitive. John P. Lipsky, first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, also addressed members on the rising prices of food and oil.



in Iraq. Addressing the Iraqi refugee crisis were **Robert Carey**, vice president of resettlement at the International Rescue Committee, **James B. Foley**, senior coordinator for Iraqi refugee issues at the U.S. Department of State, and **Kristèle Younès**, senior advocate at Refugees International. The commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, Admiral **Eric T. Olson**, offered his insights into military strategy to combat terrorism. President of the National Iranian American Council **Trita Parsi** and United States Institute of Peace senior fellow **Barbara Slavin** discussed the past, present, and future of U.S.-Iran relations. **Aaron David Miller**, public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, **Shibley Telhami**, Anwar Sadat professor for peace and development at the University of Maryland, and **Robin Wright**, diplomatic correspondent for the *Washington Post*, examined the

prospects for an Arab-Israeli peace. **Richard Engel**, chief foreign correspondent at NBC News, spoke on his experiences reporting from Iraq as part of the Council's Daughters and Sons series.

Meetings focused on Pakistan and Afghanistan included a discussion with the president and chief executive officer of the New America Foundation, **Steve Coll**, and senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace **Ashley Joachim Tellis**. **Ahmed Rashid**, former Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia correspondent for the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, and **Barnett R. Rubin**, director of studies and senior fellow at the Center on International Cooperation at New York University, talked about the role the United States should play in the region. Pakistan's former prime minister **Shaukat Aziz** spoke to a small group of members about the recent developments in Pakistan

following a contentious election, and Afghanistan's foreign minister **Rangin Dadfar Spanta** discussed the achievements and challenges in his country.

The role of religion in foreign policy received significant attention. Three half-day symposia, sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation, focused on evangelicals and U.S. foreign policy, religion and the open society, and religion in China. Among the speakers addressing these topics were **Peter L. Berger**, director of the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs at Boston University, **Richard Cizik**, vice president for governmental affairs at the National Association of Evangelicals, Reverend **Eugene F. Rivers III**, special assistant to the presiding bishop for government and policy at Church of God in Christ, **Dalia Mogahed**, senior analyst and executive director for the Center for Muslim Studies at the Gallup Organization, and

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Fenggang Yang, director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University.

The Council's HBO-sponsored History Makers series featured two speakers this year. **Brent Scowcroft** reflected on his time as national security adviser for presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, and former secretary of the treasury **Lawrence H. Summers** shared his experiences both in and out of government.



Above, left to right: 1. President Álvaro Uribe Vélez of Colombia. 2. French minister of finance Christine Lagarde. 3. President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua of Nigeria. 4. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq. 5. India's minister of external affairs Pranab Mukherjee.

Focusing on Energy and the Environment

*New York programming this past year explored issues on energy and the environment. These topics were addressed by experts in the field and world leaders in business and government. **Fatih Birol**, chief economist at the International Energy Agency, returned this year with a briefing on the findings of the 2007 World Energy Outlook with insights into China and India. **Lee Raymond**, retired chairman and chief executive officer of Exxon Mobil Corporation, discussed a study by the National Petroleum Council about the future of energy resources. President **Václav Klaus** of the Czech Republic challenged conventional thinking on climate change, Canada's prime minister **Stephen Harper** spoke on environmental concerns for North America, U.S. undersecretary of state **Paula J. Dobriansky** spoke on the melting Arctic Ocean, and Senator **John F. Kerry** (D-MA) addressed climate change as an important consideration of U.S. national security. A panel discussion led by Council Board member and former Environmental Protection Agency administrator **Christine Todd Whitman** focused on economic approaches to global warming. In June, the Council hosted a half-day symposium on China and climate change that addressed critical environmental issues.*