

Washington Program

The Council continues to grow and flourish as a source of ideas and information on foreign policy issues for decision-makers in the nation's capital. The Council in Washington offers members innovative programming on a wide range of international issues. Through targeted dissemination of the Council's intellectual work to Congress, administration officials, the diplomatic corps, the business community, and opinion leaders, the Washington Program also fosters an informed, bipartisan dialogue on the global issues of the day.

The Council's commitment to informing policymakers and promoting bipartisan approaches to foreign policy challenges is demonstrated on a regular basis by its outreach to Congress. With its reputation as an unbiased resource and neutral forum for constructive dialogue, the Council's Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy program had a very productive year. It provided briefings to new members of Congress from both parties on issues ranging from U.S. trade policy to the future of U.S. involvement in Iraq and hosted two separate meeting series for chiefs of staff in the House and Senate. Interaction with senior foreign policy and national security staff continued through the Council's highly successful congressional staff roundtable program, the longest-running consecutive briefing series of its kind.

In an effort to more effectively link the work of Council experts to policymakers on a timely basis, this year the Council initiated rapid-response briefings in Washington, DC. These enlisted Council fellows to brief congressional staff with real-time information and analysis on breaking world events. The Council

also reached out to select members of Congress to preview Independent Task Force reports on topics related to their areas of jurisdiction. The civil liberties Task Force dinner, for example, drew fourteen influential members of Congress, including Representatives **Howard Berman**

(D-CA), **Jane Harman** (D-CA), and **William "Mac" Thornberry** (R-TX).

An increasingly valuable resource to another important Washington constituency is the Council's Corporate Program. More corporate members in the area than ever before are engaged in Council activities,



Top: President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili (*far left*) at a small Council dinner with Zbigniew Brzezinski, Prime Minister of Georgia Vladimer Gurgenedze, Senior Fellow Stephen R. Sestanovich, and Stephen E. Biegun.

Bottom: Alan Greenspan (*right*) recounts personal anecdotes and reflects on larger lessons for foreign policy and international relations, as Alan Murray of the *Wall Street Journal* presides.

focusing heavily on Asia as well as on additional functional topics such as export controls, immigration, energy, and trade. Leveraging Council expertise in New York as well as in Washington, the Corporate Program featured speakers from Wall Street and continued its Window on Washington Conference Call series to highlight the capital's perspective on market turmoil and other global issues.

More than 170 foreign governments are represented in Washington, and the Council actively engages this diplomatic community through its Embassy Lunch series, which fosters exchange between foreign ambassadors and American business, political, and academic leaders. Seven ambassadors graciously hosted Council members in their residences or embassies this year. **Samir Shakir Mahmood Sumaida'ie** of Iraq, **Said Tayeb Jawad** of Afghanistan, **Pierre Vimont** of France, **Arturo Sarukhan** of Mexico, **Andreas Kakouris** of

Cyprus, **Dennis Richardson** of Australia, and **Carolina Barco Isakson** of Colombia each welcomed a small group of Council members for an intimate, not-for-attribution discussion on a range of bilateral and regional policy topics. Over the past nine years, these luncheons have deepened the Council's relationships with diplomats, who allow the Council to return the favor by hosting their foreign ministers and heads of state.

This year, for example, the Washington Program hosted several visiting government officials from abroad, including President **Festus Mogae** of Botswana, President **Mikheil Saakashvili** of Georgia, Foreign Secretary **Riaz Mohammad Khan** of Pakistan, Foreign Minister **Ahmed Aboul Gheit** of Egypt, and Finance Minister **Bayan Jabr** of Iraq.

The U.S. government was also well represented at the Council in Washington this year, with several members of the administration—including two cabinet

officials—speaking to Council members. In October, Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice** discussed policy in the Americas, focusing on trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, and Panama. Later in the month, Treasury Secretary **Henry M. Paulson Jr.** spoke in advance of his trip to India and emphasized India's rise as a player on the global economic stage. **Stephen J. Hadley**, assistant to the president for national security affairs, also took advantage of the opportunity to engage with the Washington membership. The month following his confirmation as the first commander of U.S. Africa Command, General **William E. Ward** came to the Council in Washington, shared his insights and welcomed feedback from Council members.

Drawing on the worldwide interest in the hotly contested U.S. primary campaign, the Council in Washington brought advisers to candidates from both parties together

New Vice President for the Washington Program

Kay King returned to the Council in October 2007 as vice president for the Washington Program, where she manages the Washington office, directs programming for area members, and leads Council-wide initiatives with Congress and the diplomatic community.

A Council member since 1994, King held several positions early in her career at the Council in New York, including as a member of the editorial staff of Foreign Affairs and as associate director of the project on European-American relations. King has a diverse background and broad experience in the foreign policy arena. She was vice president for external relations at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where she was responsible for leading strategic communications and managing outreach to Congress, the executive branch, the media, and the international policy community. Before joining CSIS, King was director of congressional and public affairs at the United States Institute of Peace, president of King Strategies, and deputy assistant secretary of state for legislative affairs. She was also the first executive director of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs and senior legislative assistant for foreign and defense policy to Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-DE). Coauthor of two studies on international affairs education, King holds a BA from Vassar College and an MA from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



Bringing Together Scholars and Policymakers

The Council in Washington connects Council experts and their research with Washington policymakers and opinion leaders in a timely and effective manner. Using tailored programming and targeted outreach, the Washington Program delivers Council products to select decision-makers on Capitol Hill, in the executive branch, and the media, diplomatic, and corporate communities when they need Council expertise most. Its programs and outreach initiatives are aimed at a variety of audiences:

CONGRESS

- Briefing series provide important information on foreign policy issues for new members of Congress, Senate and House chiefs of staff, and senior foreign policy and national security staff.
- Ad hoc briefings help lawmakers prepare for travel or hone ideas for legislation and assist committee staff in need of timely information.
- Bipartisan salon dinners give members of Congress an opportunity to discuss a new Council report or address a breaking issue with Council members.

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

- Embassy Lunch programs bring together Council members with senior diplomats.
- Roundtable Events link Council experts and products with senior embassy staff.

CORPORATE

- Roundtable sessions connect New York and Washington by increasing the number of discussions on financial and market issues and featuring speakers from Wall Street.
- Conference calls, known as the Window on Washington series, highlight the capital's perspective on global issues.

MEDIA

- Special on-the-record Council meetings include Washington-based reporters.
- Press briefings with Council experts focus on breaking foreign policy issues.
- Transcripts of on-the-record events in Washington, DC, are made available on the Council website within a day of the event.

in a series called Campaign 2008 Conversations. Moving beyond the headlines and campaign rhetoric, this new series took an in-depth look at some of the ideas that promise to evolve into the policies of the next president. Three separate events featured economic, foreign policy, and national security advisers sharing the guidance they offer to candidates on major issues. **Gary Gensler** speaking on behalf of Hillary Clinton, **Austan Goolsbee** representing Barack Obama, and **Douglas Holtz-Eakin** for John McCain discussed trade, oil prices, and sovereign wealth funds. Foreign policy advisers **Susan Rice** for Obama, **Mara Rudman** for Clinton, and **Randy Scheunemann** for McCain debated climate change, withdrawal from Iraq, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. National security experts **P. J. Crowley** of the Clinton team, **Richard Danzig** of the Obama campaign, and **Randy Scheunemann** representing McCain presented their candidates' views on defense spending, the Iranian nuclear threat, and combating terrorism.

The deteriorating economic situation drove much discussion on the campaign trail. To further explore economic issues, the Council in Washington launched Global Economic Trends, its newest series of meetings. Cosponsored with the Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies, the series provides a platform for leading experts to discuss issues related to financial markets, economics, and globalization, focusing on their implications for U.S. foreign policy. The first meeting of the series featured **Timothy D. Adams**, former undersecretary for international affairs at the Treasury Department,

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and Steven L. Rattner of the Quadrangle Group in a discussion on the falling dollar. Subsequent meetings addressed the national security consequences of increasing oil prices, the rise of sovereign wealth funds, and the global credit crisis. Speakers included Reuben Jeffery III, undersecretary of state for economic, energy, and agricultural affairs; Philip D. Zelikow, White Burkett Miller professor of history at the University of Virginia; and George Soros, chairman of Soros Fund Management.

Two additional highlights of the program year were the Council's HBO-sponsored History Makers series with Alan Greenspan and Frank C. Carlucci, who reflected on their careers and larger lessons for foreign policy and international relations.

Looking to the future, the Council's Washington office is preparing to move to a new home at 1777 F Street, NW—just a block from the White House, around the corner from the IMF and World Bank, and not far from the State Department. The Council's new building in Washington offers the entire organization greater visibility, increased opportunities to better serve its members and advance the work of the Council in our nation's capital, and an excellent vantage point from which to promote bipartisan solutions to foreign policy and national security challenges.



Top: General William E. Ward, the first commander of U.S. Africa Command, speaks with Council members the month following his confirmation.

Bottom: Jim Hoagland of the *Washington Post* presides at a meeting of the foreign policy advisers to the presidential candidates, Susan Rice (Obama), Randy Scheunemann (McCain), and Mara Rudman (Clinton).