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# NEW YORK MEETINGS PROGRAM

The Council's New York Meetings Program produced more than 155 events this year, including panel discussions, lectures, interviews, symposia, town hall meetings, film screenings, book clubs, and conference calls. These events covered a range of regional and functional issues, with a strong focus on Iraq, energy and the environment, the global war on terrorism, and religion and foreign policy.

Among the year's highlights were the insights into world events offered by the ten heads of state and twenty senior officials who spoke to Council members. Italy's prime minister **Romano Prodi** discussed

his country's relations with Europe and the Middle East; Prime Minister **Bertie Ahern** of Ireland addressed the peace process in Northern Ireland; and Russia's foreign minister **Sergey Lavrov** spoke about U.S.-Russia relations. A small group of members met with the president of Iran, **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**, and challenged him on his denial of the Holocaust, his refusal to recognize Israel, human rights abuses inside Iran, Iran's nuclear ambitions, and its activities in Iraq. Insights from Latin America were provided by the presidents of Colombia and Bolivia, **Álvaro Uribe** and **Evo Morales**. Perspectives on the war on terrorism were offered by President **Hamid Karzai** of Afghanistan and President **Pervez Musharraf** of Pakistan. Iraq's president **Jalal Talabani** and vice president **Tariq al-Hashimi** gave their views about the situation on the ground and the growing sectarian violence in their country. Israel's vice prime minister **Shimon Peres** addressed the crisis with Hezbollah and the broader geopolitical environment in the Middle East. **Festus G. Mogae**, the president of Botswana, made the case for diamonds as a critical resource for economic development in Africa. From Asia, speakers included Thailand's prime minister **Thaksin Shinawatra** and Taiwan's vice president **Annette Lu**.

From Washington, DC, administration officials addressing members in New York included Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs **R. Nicholas Burns**,



*Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)*

who discussed U.S. policy toward Iran, and Secretary of Commerce **Carlos M. Gutierrez**, who spoke about U.S. trade relations within the Western Hemisphere. Prior to entering the 2008 presidential campaign, Senators **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D-NY) and **Christopher J. Dodd** (D-CT) outlined their views on some of the foreign policy challenges facing the United States.

A number of speakers addressed energy and the environment. Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** of California argued that environmental protection creates economic growth, and the United Kingdom's foreign secretary, **Margaret Beckett**, joined corporate leaders from Swiss Re and Goldman Sachs to discuss the global political, economic, and financial risks associated with climate change. Governor **Tom Vilsack** of Iowa offered his views on energy security, and former secretary of energy and defense **James R. Schlesinger** and former director of the CIA **John Deutch** presented the findings and recommendations of the Independent Task Force report that they chaired, *National Security Consequences of U.S. Oil Dependency*.

The situation in Iraq continues to generate discussion and debate at the Council. Journalists **James Fallows** (*Atlantic Monthly*), **Rajiv A. Chandrasekaran** (*Washington Post*), **Deborah S. Amos** (National Public Radio), **Martha Raddatz** (ABC News), **Jane Arraf** (NBC News), and **Anne Garrels** (National Public Radio) offered their observations on the war. The former Iraqi minister of finance, defense, and trade, **Ali Allawi**, assessed the situation four years after the U.S. invasion, and scholar **Fouad Ajami** argued for cautious optimism concerning Iraq. In conjunction with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and under the direction of Senior Fellow **Steven Simon**, the Council hosted a symposium on "Iraq's Impact on the Future of U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy."

The Council marked the fifth anniversary of September 11, 2001, with a symposium examining the terrorist threat and how to make New York City safer. Three panels discussed the nature of the threat, the city's preparedness for a disaster (man-made or natural), and the role of



Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov

## Daughters and Sons

The Council's "Daughters and Sons" meetings are a long-standing tradition offering members the opportunity to bring their high school- and college-age children and grandchildren to a special Council event. Given the popularity of these forums, they are now held twice a year in both New York and Washington, DC. During the question-and-answer periods, representatives of the "next generation" of foreign policy leadership are given preference, and their questions and observations often reveal fresh perspectives on foreign policy issues. Over the years, "Daughters and Sons" speakers have included George F. Kennan, Henry A. Kissinger, David R. Gergen, George Stephanopoulos, Richard B. Cheney, Colin L. Powell, Kofi A. Annan, Christiane Amanpour, Fareed Zakaria, Paul Tagliabue, Barbara Walters, and Bono.

December featured a "Daughters and Sons" conversation with *New York Times* columnist **Nicholas D. Kristof** moderated by Council President **Richard N. Haass**. Kristof reflected on his career reporting from Asia and Africa, as well as what it means to be an op-ed columnist. In May, NBC special correspondent **Tom Brokaw** interviewed **Ishmael Beah**, a former child soldier in Sierra Leone's civil war who has recounted his ordeal in a memoir, *A Long Way Gone*.



At the “Making New York Safer” symposium, moderator Paula A. Zahn and panelists Senior Fellow Stephen E. Flynn, William Raisch, and Jeffrey Runge discuss what individuals and organizations can do.

the private sector as well as individuals in preparing for such events.

Meetings focused on Asia included the rollout of the Independent Task Force report *U.S.-China Relations: An Affirmative Agenda, A Responsible Course*, co-chaired by **Carla A. Hills**, chairman and CEO of Hills and Company and vice chairman of the Council, and **Dennis C. Blair**, president and CEO of the Institute for Defense Analyses. **Margaret MacMillan**, author of *Nixon and Mao*, along with journalist **Bernard Kalb** and former U.S. ambassador to China **J. Stapleton Roy**, reflected on the thirty-fifth anniversary of Richard Nixon’s historic 1972 trip to China. **C. H. Tung**, vice chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, discussed

developments in China today. General **Burwell B. Bell**, commander of U.S. forces in Korea, provided an update on the situation on the Korean peninsula.

This year’s program also featured a variety of speakers on economic issues. Nobel laureate and Grameen Bank founder **Muhammad Yunus** spoke on ending global poverty and the positive role that microfinance can play in such efforts; Associate Editor **Martin Wolf** of the *Financial Times* presented his argument on “How the Global Financial System Has Failed”; **Kemal Dervis**, head of the United Nations Development Programme, addressed issues of convergence and divergence in the world economy; and the president of the European Central Bank, **Jean-Claude Trichet**, spoke on emerging trends



The president of Botswana, Festus G. Mogae, with Council Board member Richard C. Holbrooke.



Bolivian president Evo Morales with Carla Anne Robbins.

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## Hungary-Suez Crisis: Fifty Years On

### An October 24, 2006, Symposium

The Suez Crisis and the Hungarian Revolt of 1956 had a profound impact on the Cold War and provide important lessons for U.S. foreign policy fifty years later. In both cases, direct U.S. intervention was avoided and a larger conflict averted. Yet both crises demonstrated the difficulties of crafting foreign policy without fully understanding the intentions of one's allies or enemies. In an effort "to inject more history into what we do here," in the words of Council President **Richard N. Haass**, the Council hosted a two-part symposium pegged to the fiftieth anniversary of the Hungary-Suez Crisis.

The first session, moderated by Haass, addressed the events that triggered the Suez Crisis of October 1956 and included speakers **E. Roger Owen**, the A. J. Meyer professor of Middle East history at Harvard University;

**David Fromkin**, professor of international relations and history at Boston University; **Douglas Brinkley**, professor of history at Tulane University; and **Timothy Naftali**, author of *Khrushchev's Cold War: The Inside Story of an American Adversary*. The second session focused on the aborted Hungarian revolt and was facilitated by **Robert Legvold**, the Marshall D. Shulman professor of political science at Columbia University. It included speakers **Charles Gati**, author of *Failed Illusions: Moscow, Washington, Budapest, and the 1956 Hungarian Revolt*; **William Taubman**, the Bertrand Snell professor of political science at Amherst College; and **Richard H. Immerman**, the Edward J. Buthusiem Family distinguished faculty fellow in history at Temple University.

in global economic integration and the response of international financial institutions. The World Economic Update series, moderated by **Daniel K. Tarullo**, continued in its ninth year with speakers including **Stephen S. Roach**, chief economist and managing director of Morgan Stanley, and **R. Glenn Hubbard**, dean of Columbia Business School.

Religion and foreign policy is a theme that continues to be explored across the Council. Former senator **John C. Danforth** discussed his book, *Faith and Politics: How the "Moral Values" Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together*; Adjunct Senior Fellow **Vali R. Nasr** talked about his book *The Shia Revival*; and Reza Aslan's *No god but God: The Origins, Evolution, and the Future of Islam* was debated as part of the Council's Book Club series. Among the speakers at a half-day symposium focused on religious conflict in Nigeria were **Rotimi Suberu**, senior fellow in the Jennings Randolph Fellowship Program at the U.S. Institute of Peace; Father **Mathew Kukah**, the

vicar general of the Catholic archdiocese of Kaduna, Nigeria; and **Peter M. Lewis**, director of the Africa Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

The Council's History Makers series, sponsored by HBO, completed its fourth year, featuring former national security adviser **Samuel R. Berger**; the former German vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs and the Council's distinguished visiting diplomat **Joschka Fischer**; and former U.S. secretary of defense **William J. Perry**.

"Lessons Learned," a new series that brings together distinguished individuals to reflect on their careers with younger Council members, featured former treasury secretary and Council vice chairman **Robert E. Rubin**; chairman of Estée Lauder Companies, Inc., **Leonard A. Lauder**; the former special counsel and adviser to President John F. Kennedy **Theodore C. Sorensen**; and NBC special correspondent **Tom Brokaw**.