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Jacob Walles is the Cyrus Vance fellow for diplomatic studies at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

Previously, Mr. Walles served as U.S. consul general and chief of mission in Jerusalem from July 2005 to August 2009. In over twenty five years with the State Department, he served in various locations in the Middle East and Europe as well as in Washington, DC. He has been an active participant in Middle East peace efforts dating back to the 1991 Madrid Conference and continuing through the Annapolis Conference in 2007.

Prior to his assignment in Jerusalem, Mr. Walles was the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece where he coordinated U.S. involvement in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

Mr. Walles also served as acting deputy assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs from January to June 2001, as the director of the office of Israel and Palestinian affairs from 1998 to 2001, and as deputy principal officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem from 1996-1998.

From 1988 to 1996, Mr. Walles served in a number of other positions involving Middle Eastern affairs, including special assistant to the under secretary of state for economic affairs, special assistant for the Middle East peace process in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and first secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. He was also assigned to the American Consulate General in Amsterdam from 1982 to 1984.

Mr. Walles is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor. From September 2001 to June 2002, he was a member of the 44th Senior Seminar at the State Department. Mr. Walles received the Department's Superior Honor Award in 1994 and again in 2001 for his work in promoting peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Walles was born in Wilmington, Delaware and is a graduate of Wesleyan University and the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University.