National Program

The National Program engages members outside New York and Washington in a substantive debate on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy. Through events held in key cities across the country and the latest in interactive technology, the National Program connects Council members and creates innovative ways to harness their expertise and knowledge.

Over the next three to four years, the National Program will build membership and programs in “key” cities, which were selected according to their involvement in the international arena, geographic balance, and distribution of the Council’s current membership. They include Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, Dallas–Fort Worth, Miami, and Boston. Future plans include expanding programs in Seattle and Minneapolis.

In recent months, the Council has strengthened ties to its western partner, the Pacific Council on International Policy, and established new ones with local foreign policy organizations in other key cities. Through these relationships, the Council holds dinner seminars across the country.

These seminars, featuring Council Fellows and their ongoing research projects, are the cornerstone of the National Program. Designed to help Council Fellows write books or articles, these regional meetings are based on a short paper, outline, or chapter written by the Fellow and sent to all participants beforehand. This year, national members contributed to several projects, including governance in China and U.S.-Japan foreign policy.

The Council also holds regional meetings on independent task forces such as U.S.-Cuban relations in the 21st century; roundtables on timely topics such as the effect of the crisis in Kosovo on transatlantic relations; and on-the-record debates based on Council Policy Initiatives. Special meetings this year showcased leading U.S. defense experts in a series of debates in San Francisco, Houston, and Atlanta.

The National Program is taking advantage of the Internet and videoconferencing to increase programs and engage a broader and more diverse group of members. The Council’s website provides members with a wealth of in-depth information and resources, including event updates for each key city on the redesigned national page, and videos and transcripts of on-the-record meetings with speakers such as President Bill Clinton.

The state-of-the-art videoconference facility at the new Peter G. Peterson Center for International Studies gives national members the opportunity to participate in study groups and larger meetings with major speakers in New York. The Peterson Inaugural Event connected five cities in a videoconferenced colloquy with former secretaries of state in Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and Washington. In cooperation with the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, the Council held its first videoconferenced study group, joining members in Atlanta and New York to discuss the transnational defense industry. Through its partnership with the Pacific Council on International Policy, the Council linked Los Angeles and New York to hear Paul Krugman on the return of Depression economics.

More than 175 members gathered at the Council’s New York headquarters for the fourth annual National Confer-
ence on June 4 and 5. This premier event of the National Program focused on the “International Financial Architecture: Redesigning the Global System” and provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the work of the Council-sponsored independent Economic Commission on the Future International Financial Architecture, chaired by Peter G. Peterson and Carla A. Hills. National members examined the core and derivative problems of the international financial system as well as restructuring possibilities for the system. Country-specific discussion groups focused on Brazil, China, Japan, and Russia. In addition to Chairman Peter G. Peterson and Vice Chairman Maurice R. Greenberg, national members also heard from IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus and U.S. Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs Timothy F. Geithner.

As it has over the past year, the Board Committee on National Programs will continue to provide guidance and feedback on progress toward the goal of transforming the Council into a truly national organization. Supporting these efforts are also the four task forces formed this year to develop membership and programs on the West Coast and in Chicago, Atlanta, and Texas. Similar task forces will be established in other key cities.

In the coming months, the National Program will forge ahead with the strategy initiated this year—building membership, strengthening ties with local foreign policy organizations, and bringing members together, in key cities and in cyberspace—to transform the Council into a truly national organization.

Michael P. Peters  
National Director

Irina A. Faskianos  
Deputy National Director

NATIONAL PROGRAM EVENTS

“Peter G. Peterson Center for International Studies Inaugural Event”

REMARKS:

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT (Washington, D.C.)
U.S. Secretary of State

OPENING REMARKS:

CYRUS R. VANCE (New York)
Former U.S. Secretary of State

VIDEOCONFERNCED COLLOQUIY:

JAMES A. BAKER III (Houston)
PRESIDER: EDWARD P. DJEREJAN
WARREN CHRISTOPHER (Los Angeles)
PRESIDER: JOHN E. BRYSON
HENRY A. KISSINGER (New York)
PRESIDER: LESLIE H. GELB
GEORGE P. SHULTZ (San Francisco)
PRESIDER: PETER TARNOFF

Atlanta

ELIZABETH C. ECONOMY
Fellow, China Studies and Deputy Director, Asia Studies

“Study Group on Governance in China”

COMMENTATOR: KENNETH A. CUTSHAW
CO-CHAIRS: MARY BROWN BULLOCK AND WALTER E. MASSEY
(COSPONSORED WITH AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE AND MOREHOUSE COLLEGE)

LAWRENCE J. KORB
Vice President, Maurice R. Greenberg Chair, and Director of Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

WILLIAM A. OWENS
Vice Chairman, Teledesic, LLC

THEODORE G. STROUP JR.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Ret.); Vice President, Education, and Executive Director, Institute of Landwarfare, Association of the U.S. Army

COUNCIL POLICY INITIATIVE: “FUTURE VISIONS FOR U.S. DEFENSE POLICY”

PRESIDER: SAM NUNN
(COSPONSORED WITH THE SAM NUNN SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE SOUTHERN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)

ANN R. MARKUSEN (New York)
Senior Fellow, Industrial Policy

“Videoconferenced Study Group on the Arms Trade and the Transnationalization of the Defense Industry”

COMMENTATORS: GENEESE GOTTSCHALK AND WILLIAM E. HOEHN JR. (Atlanta)
CHAIR: LINDA PARRISH BRADY (Atlanta)
(COSPONSORED WITH THE SAM NUNN SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)

WALTER RUSSELL MEAD
Senior Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy

“Independent Task Force on U.S.-Cuban Relations in the 21st Century”

COMMENTATOR: JUAN DEL AGUILA
CHAIR: JENNIFER MCCOY
(COSPONSORED WITH THE CARTER CENTER)


Boston

ASHTON B. CARTER
Ford Foundation Professor of Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
“Book Reception on Preventive Defense”
COMMENTATOR: JOHN M. SHALIKASHVILI
(COSPONSORED WITH THE STANFORD-HARVARD PREVENTIVE DEFENSE PROJECT, JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, HARVARD UNIVERSITY)

JOHN F. KERRY
Member, U.S. Senate (D-Mass.)
“A Conversation with Senator John F. Kerry”
PRESIDER: GRAHAM T. ALLISON

Chicago

ELIZABETH C. ECONOMY
Fellow, China Studies and Deputy Director, Asia Studies
“Study Group on Governance in China”
COMMENTATOR: DALI YANG
CHAIR: STEPHEN DEL ROSSO

MICHAEL J. GREEN
Olin Fellow, Asia Security Studies
“Study Group on Japanese Foreign Policy and U.S. Interests in Asia”
COMMENTATOR: MEREDITH WOO-CUMINGS
CHAIR: JOHN E. RIELLY

WALTER RUSSELL MEAD
Senior Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy
“Independent Task Force on U.S.-Cuban Relations in the 21st Century”
COMMENTATOR: MARIA DE LOS ANGELES TORRES
CHAIR: JOHN E. RIELLY
(ALL THREE MEETINGS ABOVE COSPONSORED WITH THE CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)

F. STEPHEN LARRABEE
Senior Analyst, RAND Corporation
“Independent Task Force on U.S. Policy Toward Northeastern Europe”
COMMENTATOR: CHARLES L. GLASER
CHAIR: JOHN J. MEARSHEIMER
(COSPONSORED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

Leila Conners Petersen
Tree Media Group

The Council’s new videoconferencing capabilities are incredible. It really brings the world closer together. It is impressive to be able to have face-to-face meetings going on in several locations. The transition from one location to another is quite seamless. That is, for me, the most remarkable thing about it; seamless transitions so that the world can become one.

We were able to see the videoconferencing capability in action at the Peterson Inaugural Event. I attended the event in Los Angeles and it was real life enough that we felt a part of the entire event, not just a part of what was happening at our location. Members in the L.A. area enjoyed the inauguration very much and are looking forward to more meetings using the Council’s new capability.

I founded Tree Media Group because of past experience with fax and e-mail as a vehicle to link policy decisions. When the Internet was born, and through the World Wide Web, I realized this was the next extension of communication. The core of my company is engaging in the creation of these kinds of subjects on-line and connecting its work with institutions and organizations like the Council. I have collaborated with the Council to begin their first on-line study group on the Caspian. Through the Caspian on-line discussion, the Council is able to convene a study group through the Internet and bring important people from diverse locations together for discussion. This is a way to inform and educate the elite in our country on these issues. And this is a motivating factor for the project. The Council needs to be one of the many entities existing on the Internet.

Now that we have seen how successful the on-line discussion group is, the Council can institute as many as it wants and keep them going for added value. If we make part of the discussion public, it can become an educational tool. The Council would have a living document which grows as the process proceeds. These tools are key for think tanks in the next century. People can continue to move around but will feel closer to the heart of the Council in New York and will participate and add value to the discussion.
Dallas

Richard K. Betts
Senior Fellow and Director, National Security Studies
“Study Group on Assessing the Future of Chinese Power”
Commentator: Ben W. Hunt; Presider: Thomas E. Meurer

Richard L. Garwin
Philip D. Reed Senior Fellow for Science and Technology, and Director, Science and Technology Studies
W. Montague Winfield
USA Military Fellow, 1998–99
“Independent Task Force on Non-Lethal Weapons”
Presider: Charles Vincent Prothro

Leslie H. Gelb
President, Council on Foreign Relations
“The Renaissance World and Tomorrow’s World”
Presider: Robert E. Wilhelm

Charles A. Kupchan
Senior Fellow and Director, European Studies
“A Single Currency and a Single Europe: Implications for Transatlantic Relations”
Presider: Paul W. Stewart
(All four meetings cosponsored with the Dallas Committee on Foreign Relations)

Houston

Charles G. Boyd
General, U.S. Air Force (Ret.); Executive Director, National Security Study Group
Kay Bailey Hutchison
Member, U.S. Senate (R-Texas)
Lawrence J. Korb
Vice President, Maurice R. Greenberg Chair, and Director of Studies, Council on Foreign Relations
Presider: Lee Cullum

Robert A. Manning
C.V. Starr Senior Fellow, and Director, Asia Studies
Commentator: Amy Myers Jaffe; Chair: Edward P. Djerejian

Walter Russell Mead
Senior Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy
“Independent Task Force on U.S.-Cuban Relations in the 21st Century”
Commentator: Rolando Bonachea
Chair: Ambler H. Moss Jr.
(Both meetings cosponsored with the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center of the University of Miami)

Miami

Albert Fishlow
Paul A. Volcker Senior Fellow for International Economics, and Director, Economics Studies
“Study Group on Free Trade Association of the Americas and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation”
Commentator: Jerry Haar
Chair: Ambler H. Moss Jr.

Walter Russell Mead
Senior Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy
“Independent Task Force on U.S.-Cuban Relations in the 21st Century”
Commentator: Rolando Bonachea
Chair: Ambler H. Moss Jr.
(All three meetings cosponsored with the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy of Rice University)

Minneapolis

F. Stephen Larrabee
Senior Analyst, RAND Corporation
“Independent Task Force on U.S. Policy Toward Northeastern Europe”
Commentator: Robert L. Farlow
Chair: Kenneth H. Keller

Bruce Stokes
Senior Fellow, Economic Studies: Trade
“Study Group on a New Paradigm for U.S.-Japan Economic Relations”
Commentator: Walter F. Mondale
Chair: Kenneth H. Keller

David G. Victor
Robert W. Johnson Jr. Fellow for Science and Technology
Rodney W. Nichols
President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Academy of Sciences
“Study Group on Global Warming Technology Policy for the United States”
Chair: Kenneth H. Keller
(All three meetings cosponsored with the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota)
The partnership between the Council and the Pacific Council on International Policy (PCIP) strengthens each organization’s mission, while allowing each to remain independent in membership, governance, and funding. Through this partnership, the Council and PCIP cooperated this year to hold the following programs on the West Coast.

Los Angeles

ELIZABETH C. ECONOMY
Fellow, China Studies, and Deputy Director, Asia Studies
“Study Group on Governance in China”
COMMENTATORS: STANLEY ROSEN AND YONG WANG
CHAIR: B. BOYD HIGHT

MICHAEL J. GREEN
Olin Fellow, Asia Security Studies
“Study Group: Japanese Foreign Policy and U.S. Interests in Asia”
COMMENTATOR: CHARLES WOLF JR.; CHAIR: GREYSON L. BRYAN

PAUL R. KRUGMAN
Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
“Videoconferenced General Meeting on the Return of Depression Economics”
PRESIDERS: STEVEN L. RATTNER (New York); GREGORY F. TREVERTON (Los Angeles)

ROBERT A. MANNING
C.V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director, Asia Studies
COMMENTATOR: MIKKAL E. HERBERG; CHAIR: GREGORY F. TREVERTON

WALTER RUSSELL MEAD
Senior Fellow, U.S. Foreign Policy
“Independent Task Force on U.S.-Cuban Relations in the 21st Century”
COMMENTATOR: DANIEL W. FISK; CHAIR: WARREN CHRISTOPHER

RICHARD W. MURPHY
Hasib J. Sabbagh Senior Fellow for the Middle East, and Director, Middle East Studies

F. GREGORY GAUSE III
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Vermont
“Study Group on Social and Economic Change in the Gulf Monarchies”
COMMENTATOR: MEL LEVINE; CHAIR: MIKKAL E. HERBERG

Seattle

BRUCE STOKES
Senior Fellow, Economic Studies: Trade
“Study Group on a New Paradigm for U.S.-Japan Economic Relations”
COMMENTATOR: GREGORY F. TREVERTON; CHAIR: DAVID K.Y. TANG

San Francisco

LAWRENCE J. KORB
Vice President, Maurice R. Greenberg Chair, and Director of Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

JAN M. LODAL
Chairman, Lodal & Co.

WILLIAM A. OWENS
Vice Chairman, Teledesic, LLC
PRESIDER: CONDOLEEZZA RICE
(COSPONSORED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB OF CALIFORNIA AND THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA)

JOHN J. MEARSHEIMER
1998–99 Whitney H. Shepardson Fellow; R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago
“Study Group on Great Power Politics”
COMMENTATOR: MICHAEL NACHT; CHAIR: C. BRUCE TARTER

WILLIAM C. POTTER
Institute Professor and Director, Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies
“Study Group on U.S.-Russian Cooperation for Nonproliferation”
COMMENTATOR: ELIZABETH D. SHERWOOD-RANDALL
CHAIR: MASON WILLRICH

BRUCE STOKES
Senior Fellow, Economic Studies: Trade
“Study Group on a New Paradigm for U.S.-Japan Economic Relations”
COMMENTATOR: JOHN A. ZYSMAN; CHAIR: DAVID JOSPEH FISCHER

DAVID G. VICTOR
Robert W. Johnson Jr. Fellow for Science and Technology
“Study Group on Global Warming Technology Policy for the United States”
COMMENTATOR: STEPHEN H. SCHNEIDER; CHAIR: DAVID W. LYON

San Diego

MICHAEL J. GREEN
Olin Fellow, Asia Security Studies
“Study Group: Japanese Foreign Policy and U.S. Interests in Asia”
CHAIR: JOHN E. KOEHLER