By leveraging technology and organizing on-the-ground sessions, the National Program provides a forum for the more than one-third of Council members outside of New York City and Washington, DC, to discuss pressing issues and to contribute to the Council’s work. This year the Council offered sixty-five teleconferences and webcasts and held more than ninety-five sessions across the country, including manuscript-review seminars, a roundtable series, the Book Club series, and general meetings that showcased Council books and publications.

The National Program Roundtable series on “Navigating a Troubled World” explored a range of issues, including the challenge of a nuclear North Korea with Ambassadors Marion V. Creekmore Jr. and Stephen W. Bosworth, in Atlanta and Boston, respectively; U.S.-Latin America relations with Inter-American Dialogue President Peter Hakim in Atlanta; the future of American power with Harvard University professor Joseph S. Nye Jr. in Chicago; the Bush doctrine with Foreign Affairs Managing Editor Gideon Rose in San Francisco; and the resurgence of Japanese power with University of Washington professor Kenneth B. Pyle in Seattle. National members also discussed the greater Middle East with Council President Richard N. Haass in Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, and San Francisco; and the Iraq war with Ambassa-
Intimate foreign policy seminars with Council fellows continued to play an integral role in the National Program. Members reviewed draft manuscript chapters, articles, Task Force reports, or Council Special Reports prior to each seminar and contributed their feedback to help shape the final product. Senior Fellows Walter Russell Mead and Adam Segal shared drafts of their manuscripts with members in Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, and San Diego.

In cooperation with local foreign policy organizations, the National Program organized more than one hundred private and public programs that highlighted Council publications and books. Richard Lapper spoke in Miami on his Council Special Report, Living with Hugo: U.S. Policy Toward Hugo Chávez’s Venezuela; David G. Victor led a session in Houston on the Energy Task Force report and was joined by John Deutch for a similar session in Boston. Other sessions featured meetings with Council members, government officials, and other leaders; briefings at think tanks, academic institutions, and military bases; conference calls; and print, television, and radio interviews for Max Boot’s War Made New, Stephen E. Flynn’s The Edge of Disaster, Vali R. Nasr’s The Shia Revival, and Ray Takeyh’s Hidden Iran.

The Council’s Book Club series selections this year were Reza Aslan’s No god but God: The Origins, History and Future of Islam and James Traub’s The Best Intentions: Kofi Annan and the UN in the Era of American World Power. National members discussed these books in ten cities and had the opportunity to talk with both authors in interactive conference calls.

The Book Club and Roundtable series, the manuscript review sessions, and the National Program more broadly are designed to build a greater sense of community among Council members nationwide and to engage them and other leaders in substantive and sustained conversations that contribute both to the Council’s intellectual work and to the debate on U.S. foreign policy.

**Technology**

The National Program uses the latest technology to connect members from coast to coast with a broad range of ideas in international affairs. The National Program Conference Call series, chaired by Vice President Irina A. Faskianos, features scholars and experts on current issues. The Council Fellows Virtual Book Club series offers members the opportunity to interact with fellows who have recently published books. In addition, international and domestic policymakers are made accessible through teleconferences and webcasts of selected Council meetings in New York and Washington.

The National Program posts the audio and video files of on-the-record Council meetings on CFR.org, so that members and the general public can listen to and watch these meetings on their desktops. They are also downloadable to computers, iPods, or MP3 players through RSS feeds and podcasts that can be accessed through CFR.org, the iTunes Music Store, and Yahoo!. Full-length recordings are also available on Princeton’s University Channel and on ForaTV.
National Conference

The National Conference is the premier event of the National Program, and this year brought together 350 participants from around the world at the Council’s New York headquarters for two days of discussions with fellow members and other leading thinkers and practitioners. Underwritten by a grant in memory of Peter E. Haas, the twelfth National Conference, titled “Navigating a Troubled World,” featured the following speakers and topics:

- U.S. Army lieutenant general Karl W. Eikenberry, deputy chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee, and NBC News special correspondent Tom Brokaw on the future of Afghanistan and NATO;
- Former assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs Martin S. Indyk, Adjunct Senior Fellow Vali R. Nasr, and deputy national security adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan Meghan O’Sullivan, with Council President Richard N. Haass, on the greater Middle East;
- Former U.S. ambassador to India Robert D. Blackwill, former U.S. ambassador to Korea Stephen W. Bosworth, and former deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs Susan L. Shirk, with former assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs Winston Lord, on Asia;
- Senior Fellow Peter Beinart, Commentary managing editor Gary Rosen, and former New York Times op-ed page staff editor Laura Secor, with Northwestern University president Henry S. Bienen, on defining America’s global position;
- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism director and counsel David Saperstein and Zaytuna Institute founder and chairman Sheikh Hamza Yusuf, with Pearl T. Robinson and Adjunct Senior Fellow Princeton N. Lyman at the Africa discussion group.

Newsweek editor Jon Meacham, on the role of religion in U.S. foreign policy;

- A conversation with U.S. ambassador to the UN Zalmay M. Khalilzad and CBS’s 60 Minutes correspondent Lesley Stahl; and
- Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur Jan Eliasson and NBC’s Today news anchor Ann Curry on the future of Darfur.

Members also met in smaller regional and topical discussion groups led by Council fellows and had the opportunity to interact with foreign policy experts, business leaders, former high-level government officials, and leaders of nongovernmental organizations in the following Town Hall meetings:

- Climate Change, with Frances Beinecke, Jeffrey D. Sachs, and Michael A. Levi;
- Latin America, with Jorge G. Castañeda, Donna J. Hrinak, and Alberto Ibargüen;
- Proliferation, with Ashton B. Carter, Daniel B. Poman, and Lee Feinstein; and
- Trade Liberalization, with Alan S. Blinder, R. Glenn Hubbard, and Sebastian Mallaby.

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