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The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is pleased to provide the fifth edition of the Council Chronicle, the Council's newsletter. The Chronicle seeks to keep the Council's supporters informed and updated by presenting news and special reports on the Council's year-round educational programs, events, and activities. For new readers interested in learning more about the Council's vision and mission, together with the means it utilizes to pursue both, a statement to this effect appears at the end of this issue as well as on the Council's Web site at www.ncusar.org.

About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. The Council's vision for the U.S.-Arab relationship is one that rests on a solid, enduring foundation of strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation, strengthened continuously by exchanges of present and emerging leaders among Americans and Arabs alike. The Council's mission is educational. It seeks to enhance American awareness and appreciation of the multi-faceted and innumerable benefits the United States has long derived from its relations with the Arab world. It endeavors to do this through leadership development, people-to-people programs, academic seminars, an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers' conference, specialized publications, and the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study abroad and Arabic language learning experiences as well as intensive year-round and summer university student internships, combined with an academic seminar in the nation's capital. In pursuit of its mission, the Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, informational, and human resources clearinghouse. In so doing, it provides cutting edge information and insight to national, state, and local grassroots organizations, media, and public policy research institutes, in addition to select community civic, religious, business, and professional associations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

17th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Summary .......................................................... 2

17th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Speakers & Sessions

    Thursday, October 30 .................................................................................................................. 3

    Friday, October 31 .................................................................................................................. 10

17th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Sponsors ........................................................... 16

Recent National Council Public Affairs Briefings ....................................................................... 17

Help Support the National Council ............................................................................................. 18
The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations convened its 17th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference on October 30-31, 2008 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. More than 800 participants representing the diplomatic, governmental, military, business, think-tank and academic communities turned their attention to the conference theme: “Transitioning the White House: Challenges and Opportunities for Arab-U.S. Relations.” Coming just days before the presidential election in the United States, the conference examined a wide range of issues confronting Arab-U.S. relations. Participants considered how the new American president might seek to deal with the regional challenges and objectives he will inherit upon inauguration, how the global economic slowdown could impact the United States and Arab countries, and how the transition might present opportunities for reordered priorities and new directions in U.S. policies regarding the Arab world.

Conference speakers included former NATO Commanding General Wesley Clark (Ret.), dealing with Arab-U.S. strategic relations; United Arab Emirates Minister of Foreign Trade Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, examining regional developments and commerce between the United States and the Arabian Peninsula; media personality Ms. Mona Abu Sulayman, renowned co-host of *Kalam Nawaem* (“Softly Speaking”) and Managing Director of the HRH Prince Awaleed Bin Talal Kingdom Foundation, offering perspectives on the changing demographics and cultural dynamics across generations; The Hon. Chas. W. Freeman, Jr., Middle East Policy Council President and former Assistant Secretary of Defense, who reexamined the successes and failures of U.S. foreign policy in the region in recent years; and Arab League Ambassador Dr. Hussein Hassouna, who examined how U.S. policies have been viewed in the Arab world and suggested steps forward that might be taken by the new U.S. administration.

A special highlight of the conference was a roundtable discussion with current U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ford Fraker, and three of his predecessors – Ambassador Walter Cutler (1984-1987), Ambassador Wyche Fowler (1996-2001), and Ambassador Robert Jordan (2002-2003). H.E. Houda Ezra Nonoo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States, hosted an evening embassy reception for conference participants. Additional speakers included HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa’ud, former Ambassador to the Court of St. James and to the United States of America; H.E. Marwan Muasher, Senior Vice-President for External Affairs at the World Bank and former Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as well as a former Jordanian ambassador to the United States; H.E. Imad Moustapha, Ambassador of Syria to the United States; and H.E. Ali Suleiman Aujali, Libyan Ambassador to the United States. Other sessions examined Arab and U.S. interests and key foreign policy objectives pertaining to Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Arab-U.S. defense cooperation, developments for the energy industry in a changing global economy, and the dynamics of the presidential campaign in the United States as seen through the eyes of Arab media specialists.

Dr. John Duke Anthony, Founding President and CEO of the National Council, served as host for the conference and moderated the proceedings. The Council is celebrating its 25th Anniversary (1983-2008) of promoting a relationship between the United States and its Arab world strategic partners, friends, and allies that rests on as solid and enduring a foundation as possible. The annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference is a central part of the National Council’s mission to educate Americans about U.S. interests and involvement in the Arab countries, the Mideast, and the Islamic world.
Speakers & Sessions
Thursday, October 30, 2008

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Jeremy Downs - Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, General Services Administration, National Capital Region

Rear Admiral Harold J. Bernsen, (USN, Ret.) - Chairman, Board of Directors, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; President, Board of Trustees of Physicians for Peace; Director, American-Bahraini Friendship Society; former Commander, U.S. Middle East Force; and Director Emeritus, National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce

Dr. John Duke Anthony - President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; Adjunct Professor, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Graduate School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

REVISITING ARAB-U.S. STRATEGIC RELATIONS: AN OVERVIEW AND PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

General Wesley Clark (USA, Ret.) – Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe; author, A Time to Lead, Waging Modern War, and Winning Modern Wars; candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for President of the United States [2004]
GEO-POLITICAL DYNAMICS (I): LEBANON AND SYRIA

The Honorable Edward W. Gnehm, Jr. – Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs, Elliot School of International Affairs, The George Washington University; former United States Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; former United States Ambassador to Australia; former director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Personnel for the Department of State

Dr. Bassam Haddad – Director, Middle East Studies Program and Assistant Professor, Department of Public and International Affairs, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

H.E. Dr. Imad Moustapha – Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United States

Dr. Daoud Khairallah, Esq. – Adjunct Professor of International Law at Georgetown University Law Center and the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University
GEO-POLITICAL DYNAMICS (II): ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Dr. Nadia Hijab – Senior Fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Palestine Studies. Author, Womanpower: The Arab Debate on Women at Work and co-author Citizens Apart: A Portrait of Palestinians in Israel

Mr. Daniel Levy – Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Initiative at the New America Foundation and a Senior Fellow and Director of the Prospects for Peace Initiative at The Century Foundation

Dr. Peter Gubser – Immediate Past President, American Near East Refugee Aid, Inc [ANERA]; Member, Board of Directors, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Dr. Naseer Aruri – Chancellor Professor (Emeritus) of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; President of the Board, Trans-Arab Research Institute; Member, Executive Committee, Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY H.E. SHEIKHA LUBNA AL QASIMI

H.E. Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi – Minister for Foreign Trade, United Arab Emirates

H.E. Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi headed the UAE’s Ministry of Economy during one of the country’s most economically prosperous periods. Additionally, Sheikha Lubna’s appointment in November 2004 to manage what was then the UAE’s newly merged economy and planning portfolio was a historic event for the UAE as she became the first woman ever in the country to assume a cabinet position. Sheikha Lubna was also appointed Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the UAE’s Securities & Commodities Authority, serving from 2004 until 2008. Following her tenure as Minister of Economy, Sheikha Lubna was appointed in February 2008 to another highly sensitive post as Minister for Foreign Trade.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL THANKS

FOR SPONSORING THE OCT. 31 LUNCHEON

The Honorable David Bohigian – Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance, International Trade Administration, United States Department of Commerce; Department of Commerce representative on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).
Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft (USAF, Ret.) – President and Founder of The Scowcroft Group; former National Security Advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush; concluded a twenty-nine year military career that began with graduation from West Point at the rank of Air Force Lieutenant General serving as Deputy National Security Advisor; former Director, Kissinger Associates.

Dr. Kenneth Katzman – Senior Middle East Affairs Specialist, Congressional Research Service, United States Congress. Author of numerous and regularly updated briefing reports for Members of the United States Congress on Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the GCC region.

Mr. Wayne White – Adjunct Scholar, Middle East Institute and Policy Expert, Middle East Policy Council; former Deputy Director of the Near East and South Asia Office, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State.

General Joseph P. Hoar (USMC, Ret.) – former Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command. Following his retirement from the military, General Hoar formed the consulting firm of J.P. Hoar & Associates, which is engaged in business development in the Middle East and Africa.

Ms. Nabilah Al-Tunisi – Director of the Saudi Aramco-Dow Chemical joint venture project to build one of the largest hydrocarbon and chemical complexes in the world near the R‘as Tanura Refinery in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Ryan M. Lance – President, Exploration and Production – Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, for ConocoPhillips

Mr. James Burkhard – Managing Director, Cambridge Energy Research Associates [CERA], Global Oil Group

Mr. Jay R. Pryor - Vice-President for Corporate Business Development, Chevron Corporation
Friday, October 31, 2008

FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE IN THE ARAB WORLD: A WOMAN'S PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE

LEFT: Ms. Muna Abu Sulayman — Co-Host Kalam Nawaem ("Softly Speaking"), Middle East Broadcasting Corporation [MBC-TV]; Managing Director, HRH Prince Awaleed Bin Talal Kingdom Foundation / RIGHT: Dr. John Duke Anthony with Ms. Abu Sulayman

The C-SPAN television network broadcast the entire October 30 proceedings and select portions of the October 31 proceedings live and with repeat showings for several days. This allowed the conference and its speakers to be heard by millions of individuals all over the world. DVD copies of each session are available for purchase through the C-SPAN Web site www.cspan.org. Through the C-SPAN Web site one can also view streaming video of all sessions broadcast by C-SPAN. Links to the specific location of the streaming video on C-SPAN's site can be found on the National Council's Web site www.ncusar.org. Written transcripts and audio recordings of the entire conference are available for downloading through the National Council's Web site www.ncusar.org. To access all conference proceedings go to www.ncusar.org, click on the 'Publications' tab, and select '2008 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference Video, Audio and Transcripts.'

H.E. Houda Ezra Nonoo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States, together with National Council Malone Fellow Joseph Stanik and his High School Model Arab League students from New Era Academy in Baltimore, Maryland, at a reception celebrating the Council's 25th Anniversary, Oct. 30 at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

More than 800 distinguished individuals representing the diplomatic, governmental, military, business, think-tank and academic communities attended the 2008 Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.
DEFENSE COOPERATION

Mr. Jeffrey C. McCray – Vice President, International Marketing, BAE SYSTEMS

Dr. Anthony H. Cordesman – Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Adjunct Professor in National Security Affairs, Georgetown University; former senior adviser and consultant to the U.S. Departments of Defense, Energy, State

Ambassador Barbara Bodine – Director of the “Scholars in the Nation’s Service Initiative” and a Diplomat-in-Residence, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University; and former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen

Mr. Christopher Blanchard – Middle East Policy Analyst, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service, United States Congress
DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL DYNAMICS

H.E. Marwan Muasher - Senior Vice-President of External Affairs, World Bank; former Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; former Ambassador of Jordan to the United States; author of The Arab Center: The Promise of Moderation

H.E. Houda Ezra Nonoo – Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States. In 2006, Ambassador Nonoo was appointed by His Majesty the King, Shaikh Hamad Bin Salman Al Khalifa to the Shura Council; serving on the Committee for Finance and Economic Affairs

Mr. David D. Arnold – President, American University in Cairo; former Vice President, Institute of International Education (IIE); former Ford Foundation Representative in India

Ms. Muna Abu Sulayman

HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal – Chairman, King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; former Saudi Arabian Ambassador to the Court of St. James and the United States of America; former Director General, General Intelligence Directorate, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
OCTOBER 31 LUNCHEON

Ambassador Chas. W. Freeman, Jr. – President, Middle East Policy Council; former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (1993-94), earning the highest public service awards of the Department of Defense for his roles in designing a NATO-centered post-Cold War European security system and in reestablishing defense and military relations with China.

He also served as U. S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm) and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs during the U.S. mediation of Namibian independence from South Africa and Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola.

H.E. Ali Suleiman Aujali – Chargé d’Affaires, People’s Bureau of the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; former Chargé d’Affaires Libyan People’s Bureau in Ottawa, Canada; former Libyan ambassador to Malaysia, Argentina, and Brazil.
U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2008: VIEWS FROM THE ARAB WORLD

Mr. Mohamed Elmenshawy – Editor-in-Chief of Taqrir
Washington, Washington correspondent for the daily pan-Arab newspaper Asharq Alawsat

Dr. Abderrahim Foukara – Washington Bureau Chief, Al-Jazeera International and former longtime BBC Correspondent


Mr. Hisham Melhem – Washington-based correspondent for Annahar, the leading Lebanese daily, Al-Qabas, the Kuwaiti daily, and Radio Monte Carlo in France. He is currently the host of "Across the Ocean", a weekly talk show for Al-Arabiya.
H.E. Dr. Hussein Hassouna –
Ambassador of the League of Arab States
to the United States of America; former
Assistant Foreign Minister of Egypt;
former Ambassador of Egypt to Morocco
and Yugoslavia; Member, United Nations
International Law Commission
NATIONAL COUNCIL PUBLIC AFFAIRS BRIEFINGS

The National Council periodically sponsors public educational programs on Capitol Hill and around Washington, DC where an assemblage of domestic and internationally renowned specialists analyze, discuss, and debate issues of importance to the relationship between the U.S. and the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic World. These events examine how best to strengthen and expand mutual Arab-U.S. trust, confidence, and benefits while examining a range of complex issues, interests, and policies.

On December 2, 2008, in the Pavilion Room of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB & ITC), the Council, in collaboration with The International Gateway at the RRB & ITC and ExxonMobil Corporation, hosted "A Conversation With His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud." Dr. John Duke Anthony served as moderator for this 90-minute discussion on Arab-U.S. relations with the former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the U.S. and United Kingdom, HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Sa'ud.


On February 17, 2009, in the Rotunda Ballroom at the RRB & ITC, the Council, in collaboration with Qatar Airways, and with support from The International Gateway at the RRB & ITC and the Oxford Business Group, hosted a discussion on "Islamic Finance and the Global Economic Crisis." Featured speakers were Dr. Yusuf Talal DeLorenzo, Chief Shariah Officer for Shariah Capital, and Mr. Michael McMillen, Attorney for Fulbright & Jaworski LLP. Dr. John Duke Anthony served as moderator for the discussion.
Help Support the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
Please Make an Annual, Quarterly, Monthly or One-Time Tax-Deductible Donation*

The National Council depends on its supporter's contributions to continue its educational mission to strengthen and expand U.S.-Arab relations. We invite you to contribute to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Annual Fund. *The Council is recognized as a 501 (c) (3) public charity and contributions are federally tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under law. Tax-deductible gifts to the Annual Fund provide vital unrestricted revenues that help support the Council's full range of programming. You can make your gift payable to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations through a safe and secure online credit card donation by visiting the National Council's website, www.ncusar.org, or you can mail a check to the National Council at:

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
1730 M St. NW, Suite 503
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*Your support is needed now more than ever.

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