



Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano speaks at Women in Power Luncheon

Washington, DC – On December 16, 2009, the WFPG hosted a Women in Power Luncheon honoring Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. In her address and the discussion moderated by *New York Times* Pentagon Correspondent Elisabeth Bumiller, Napolitano presented an overview of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), now the third largest department in the government. She outlined the five major mission areas for DHS which include: counterterrorism, securing the borders of the US, the enforcement of the nation's immigration laws, cyber-security, and preparation for disaster response.

Napolitano explained that DHS is not just a domestic agency, stating that “Our very existence recognizes that in this day and age, terrorism itself is a globalized phenomenon that comes home to roost right here.” She noted that although the conflict in Afghanistan is thousands of miles away, “One of the major reasons, if not the major reason, they are being so deployed is because of safety right here in the homeland.”

The Secretary explained that DHS responds to a complex set of threats that involve military, diplomatic, cultural, and development issues. One recent unhappy development, according to the Secretary, has been that American citizens raised here have become radicalized, violent, and “operationalized” after being trained in camps

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abroad. This means that we have to place “a premium on sharing intelligence and information, not just among federal departments—but also we need to make sure that we can effectively exchange or share information across the nation to state, to local, to tribal, to territorial law enforcement and others.”

DHS's role is “not only the ability to gather or collect the information about threat streams... but also then to transform them into products that can be shared across the country at various levels of security classification.” This is something the Department is already doing across the country through fusion centers with federal, state, and local law enforcement.

In closing, the Secretary emphasized that despite the efforts of DHS, no single federal department can protect “the security enterprise of the United States” and thus stressed the importance of “the notion of shared responsibility,” which includes the government, individuals, families, and the community.

Women in Power Luncheon Highlights



Janet Napolitano and Elisabeth Bumiller



Napolitano and Board Chair Maxine Isaacs



Ambassador Glenda Morean-Phillip of Trinidad



Janet Napolitano and WFPG Board Members



Ambassador Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata of Italy



WFPG Luncheon Guests



Anita Botti of the State Department and Cécile Sportis of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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A Conversation with Richard Holbrooke on Afghanistan and Pakistan

A Special Beyond the Headlines Luncheon



Washington, DC – On January 8, 2010, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, addressed WFPG members and guests on current US policies and strategies in the region at a Beyond the Headlines Luncheon. The talk was moderated by Helene Cooper, White House Correspondent for *The New York Times*.

three elements of this strategy: the military, civilians, and training the military and police. There has been a tripling of the number of civilians involved in this effort over the last year, with agriculture as the number one non-security priority. Holbrooke said that it would not be easy, but that the strategy will be re-evaluated at the end of the year.

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Holbrooke spoke about President Obama's decision to substantially increase US forces in Afghanistan, explaining that the President would not have done this if he did not believe that it was directly linked to vital US national security interests, emphasizing that this situation is drastically different than the US's experiences in Vietnam and Iraq. He also discussed what he called a misunderstanding of the American deadline of the 2011 troop withdrawal. Rather than setting a specific timetable, Holbrooke explained that the US “will start a responsible transition of security responsibilities to the Afghan security and police by July 2011, and start withdrawing some of the troops.”

According to the Ambassador, in the next 18 months heavy emphasis will be placed on two efforts: (1) to degrade and disrupt Taliban efforts, and with the space that this disruption creates, (2) to upgrade and help “train and equip and grow and improve the Afghan security forces and improve their civil governance.” He outlined the

Holbrooke stated that we are making progress and that the al-Qaeda leadership has been significantly weakened in the border area, but fighting in this area is complicated because it crosses into Pakistan. He supports more aid to Pakistan, and appreciates the Kerry-Lugar-Berman legislation, which authorizes \$7.5 billion over the next five years for economic assistance to Pakistan. In Holbrooke's opinion, relations with Pakistan have improved over the last year, and “Pakistan is rising on our radar screen and will continue to do so.” The US has provided massive aid for their refugee problems, increased military aid, and is starting to focus on problems such as energy and water.

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Beyond the Headlines Luncheon Highlights



Richard Holbrooke and Helene Cooper



WFPG Luncheon Guests



Ambassador Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic of Croatia



British Deputy Head of Mission Dominick Chilcott



WFPG Board Member Theresa Loar and Ambassador Houada Nonoo of Bahrain



Richard Holbrooke and WFPG Board Members



Ambassador Yousef Al Otaiba of the UAE



WFPG Board Member Diana Villiers Negroponte

Status Report on Haiti

A Conversation with:
Ambassador Raymond Alcide Joseph and Lola Poisson-Joseph



Washington, DC – On February 3, 2010, Haitian Ambassador Raymond Alcide Joseph and his wife, Lola Poisson-Joseph, discussed the current situation in Haiti and plans for the future at a gathering of WFPG members and guests. The event was moderated by Mary Beth Sheridan, Diplomatic Correspondent for *The Washington Post*, who was in Haiti right after the earthquake. The event was held at the offices of Arnold & Porter LLP.

The Ambassador opened his remarks by expressing pain for what has happened to his country, but also a kind of joy, since Port-au-Prince will now experience the changes it has needed for decades. Ambassador Joseph explained that Port-au-Prince is a city built for 250,000, but now houses over 2 million people. Therefore, the earthquake proved that, “Port-au-Prince is an ecological catastrophe waiting to happen.” He does not believe, however, that the capital can be realistically moved elsewhere. Instead, he sees reconstructing a smaller Port-au-Prince with “sister cities” built nearby as a solution.

The Ambassador also discussed the status of the Haitian government saying, “I know that people have said that Haiti has no government,” but he insisted that the government is working to the best of its ability in the midst of the crisis. He also attested that Haitians have benefited from the organizing efforts of the American military and from the influx of members of the Haitian diaspora now returning to lend their assistance. “The people who have been gone for almost five

decades are rushing back,” he explained, citing the doctors and other professionals who have volunteered. He hopes that some of these individuals will eventually return to Haiti permanently.

Mrs. Poisson-Joseph spoke specifically to issues regarding women and children and expressed her belief that full recovery for both groups can be achieved. In response to a question regarding the adoption of children orphaned by the earthquake, she explained, “Rather than starting the adoption process now, we should form programs to let the children mourn.” Once there is more stability in Haiti, she believes that the adoption programs should resume. Regarding the influx of foreign aid to Haiti, Mrs. Poisson-Joseph commented on the importance of the accountability and collaboration of NGOs – the organizations receiving the majority of donations.



A portion of the proceeds from this event were donated to the Embassy of Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.

Delivering Clean Water to Haiti: Corporate, NGO, and US Government Relief and Recovery Efforts



Washington, DC – On March 24, 2010, the Women's Foreign Policy Group held a panel discussion on the challenge of delivering clean drinking water to Haiti in the aftermath of the January 12th earthquake with representatives of the private, NGO, and public sectors. The speakers included Dr. Greg Allgood, Director of Procter & Gamble's (P&G) Children's Safe Drinking Water Program; Ambassador Sally Cowal, Senior Vice President and Chief Liaison Officer of Population Services International (PSI); and Dr. Eric Mintz, Team Lead for Global WASH Epidemiology of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).



Allgood, who was in Haiti right after the earthquake, called the destruction in Haiti "far worse than anything I have ever seen." He demonstrated the effectiveness of P&G's PUR Water Packets in transforming dirty, bacteria-laden water into healthy water and discussed his company's efforts to provide over one million of those packets to Haiti. Cowal spoke of harnessing Haiti's entrepreneurs, assisting them in selling water treatment products for a profit and "ensuring the products remain available to those who need them long after...the world turns its attention to the next crisis." Mintz detailed how the CDC, in collaboration with Google and other federal agencies, have been able to use new and innovative mapping technology to look at population density and super-impose things like water distribution on it in order to locate areas with drinking water supply problems as well as those areas with standing water or at risk for flooding.



All of the panelists agreed that Haiti's water problem did not originate with the earthquake, but they expressed hope that the nation would emerge from the disaster stronger than ever. As Allgood stated, "The resiliency of those people is amazing."

The WFPG would like to thank WFPG Corporate Advisory Council member Procter & Gamble, for their generous support of this program.

Speakers from top to bottom: Dr. Greg Allgood, Ambassador Sally Cowal, and Dr. Eric Mintz.

International Women's Day Celebration

Washington, DC – On March 8, 2010, in celebration of International Women's Day, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis delivered the keynote address on "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All" at a luncheon co-sponsored by the UN Foundation, UN Information Center, and WFPG. Solis discussed the Administration's policies to further women's advancement abroad and her Department's efforts in the US. She stated that, "The best weapon to fight poverty is to make sure women have the resources and opportunity to raise themselves out of the vicious cycle of poverty." Read her remarks or watch the video at www.wfpg.org.



Embassy Series

US Relations with the Muslim World: The View from Egypt

Washington, DC – On September 10, 2009, Ambassador Sameh Shoukry of Egypt hosted an event at the Embassy of Egypt for WFPG members and guests. The program featured an Iftar (a traditional Ramadan fast-breaking meal) and remarks by Ambassador Shoukry. Karen DeYoung, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent for *The Washington Post*, served as moderator.

Shoukry spoke about the current relationship between the United States and the Muslim World from the perspective of the Egyptian government. He felt that while this relationship has generally been stable and productive, it has unfortunately deteriorated during the last few decades. Nevertheless, the Ambassador emphasized that the Arab and Muslim communities have been highly receptive to President Obama's recent overtures of reconciliation, in particular his June 4th speech in Cairo, and are eager to reciprocate his good will. Still, he stressed that, "One impressive speech will not erase years of mistrust and missed opportunities. Deeds will have to follow words and people in the region expect complete policy-based follow-up." Finally, Shoukry identified the clear need for both the United States and the Islamic world to let go of

old prejudices and respect one another's cultural diversity.

During the question and answer session, Moderator Karen DeYoung asked the Ambassador about perceptions within the Islamic world of the US's role in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He explained that these are all important issues for the people of the region, and that President Obama could generate good will in the Muslim world by fulfilling promises to resolve the situation in Iraq and by helping to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Shoukry believes that the new President has brightened perceptions of the US abroad, and stated that within the Muslim world "The leadership of the United States is now believed to be able to fulfill not only the promises, but also able to reach results."



Ambassador Sameh Shoukry with Karen DeYoung

Batik Viewing with Remarks from the Honorable Trie Edi Mulyani

New York, NY – On July 24, 2009, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia and the Women's Foreign Policy Group cosponsored an event at the Consulate General of Indonesia in New York. The event included a batik viewing, fashion show, and luncheon. The Honorable Trie Edi Mulyani, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, delivered opening remarks.

The event, *Two Ladies Found a Culture in Cloths*, was in celebration of the batik, Indonesia's most distinguished art form. The batik is a fabric that is decorated by using wax to cover parts of a design, and then by dyeing the uncovered fabric with one or many

colors. The exhibit featured the collections of Dr. Ann Dunham, the late mother of President Obama, and Madame Ani Bambang Yudhoyono, the first lady of Indonesia. In her opening remarks, Consul General Mulyani discussed how Dunham helped pioneer microfinance in Indonesia, by focusing on policies that were most beneficial to the small enterprises of poor women. She then explained how women in Indonesia are responsible for nine-tenths of the batik industry and are thus crucial to the economy and culture of the country. In her conclusion, the Consul General emphasized how this exhibition, as it travels across the US, is increasing cross-cultural understanding and appreciation between the two nations.



Author Series

Haleh Esfandiari • *My Prison, My Home*

October 7, 2009 (NY) and October 14, 2009 (DC) – On the evening of October 14th, author Haleh Esfandiari spoke to WFPG at the home of WFPG Board Chair Maxine Isaacs. Esfandiari, Middle East Program Director at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, spoke about her book, *My Prison, My Home: One Woman's Story of Captivity in Iran*, and her 2007 detainment and the 105 days she spent in solitary confinement as political prisoner in Tehran's Evin Prison. Esfandiari also spoke to the Women's Foreign Policy Group in New York on October 7th at an event hosted and moderated by Consul General Eliska Zigova at the Czech Consulate.

Esfandiari described what happened on her usual holiday trip to Tehran to visit her mother. On her return to the airport to fly back to America, her car was forced off the road and her passport and airline tickets were taken. She quickly realized that this was no routine screening procedure. The Iranian Intelligence Ministry demanded details of her work with the Wilson Center, misunderstanding the role of think tanks in the American political structure. The regime believed

Esfandiari to be the mastermind behind a plot to overthrow the Iranian government.

She was sent to prison and spent months in solitary confinement, sleeping on the floor with constant light and increasing interrogations. Her only human contacts were guards, interrogators, and the occasional prison doctor. Esfandiari talked about the pilates exercises she did to remain sharp. She also wrote two books in her head – a biography of her grandfather and a fairy tale for her granddaughters. Meanwhile, her husband and other supporters in the US, including WFPG, mounted a campaign for her release.



Esfandiari speaks in DC



Consul General Zigova and Esfandiari in NY

Linda Tarr-Whelan • *Women Lead the Way*

October 5, 2009 (DC) and March 18, 2010 (NY) – The Hon. Linda Tarr-Whelan addressed audiences of WFPG members and guests on her book *Women Lead the Way: Your Guide to Stepping Up to Leadership and Changing the World*. Tarr-Whelan currently serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos, and previously served as Ambassador to the UN Commission on the Status of Women in the Clinton Administration and as Deputy Assistant for Women's Concerns in the Carter

White House, experiences which she drew on when writing her book. Tarr-Whelan discussed her "30 Percent Solution," which advocates that women hold at least 30 percent of the seats at any power table. She recognizes this as the point where women's voices resonate enough to contribute their unique experiences and values in decision-making. During the question-and-answer session, Tarr-Whelan emphasized the importance of mentoring.



Dawn Calabia (moderator) and Linda Tarr-Whelan in DC



Linda Tarr-Whelan addresses WFPG in New York

WFPG Board Welcomes New Board Member Carolyn Brehm

As Vice President of Global Government Relations for the Procter & Gamble Company, Carolyn Brehm leads P&G's government relations team in the US, Brussels, Singapore, and China. Prior to that, Brehm served as Director of Legislation for The Business Roundtable; spent 13 years with the General Motors Corporation in several Washington and overseas assignments; and served as Vice President of Asia for ORBIS International, a global humanitarian organization working to eliminate avoidable blindness in the developing world. She began her career at the US-China Business Council and has published a number of articles and a book chapter on that topic. Brehm holds a BA from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and an MBA from the University of New Haven.



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Women's Foreign
Policy Group

Members in Action: Board & Member News

Helen Desfosses, a development consultant based in Alexandria and an Associate Professor at SUNY-Albany, served as a consultant and trainer at the NDI – sponsored Young Women Leaders Academy in Doha, Qatar in last summer.

Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, former Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, has joined Thomson Reuters, a global news and information provider, as Senior Vice President and Head of Government Affairs.

Patricia Ellis, WFPG President, attended the German Marshall Fund's 2010 Brussels Forum in March. The Forum is an annual high-level meeting of influential North American and European leaders to address challenges facing both sides of the Atlantic.

Nadine Hack, President of beCause Global Consulting, will join IMD, a renowned international executive education business school in Lausanne, Switzerland, this summer as Executive-in-Residence focusing on Responsible Leadership and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Hon. Henrietta Holsman Fore, Chairman and CEO of Holsman International and former USAID Administrator, has joined the Board of The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, established by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to raise money for Haiti relief and recovery efforts after the earthquake.

Margaret (Margie) Lehrman won another national Emmy as part of the NBC News team selected for its 2008 election-night coverage. After 30 years at NBC, she retired June 1, 2009 and now serves on the Alumni Board of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Jeannine Scott was awarded the Palme d'Excellence by President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The award, given to a woman who exemplifies long time excellence in economic development and entrepreneurship, was presented at the third International Congress of Black Women.

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Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders DC & NY Mentoring Fairs

New York, NY – WFPG teamed up with New York University's Wagner School of Public Service and the Wasserman Center for Career Development to sponsor our 2010 Annual **New York Mentoring Fair** on February 24th. Over 150 young professionals and students representing several universities, including NYU, Columbia, UPenn, and Brandeis, attended. The attendees received advice from mid- and senior-level mentors on careers in the foreign service, UN, peace and security, international business, and global health.

"I found the mentoring fair to be extremely helpful because the mentors provided advice that I would not have thought of on my own or received through generic conversations about my interest."

– Kameelah Dixon, New York University

"This mentoring fair was incredibly helpful. I was able to meet professionals that directly match my interests in international law and the UN. I have been able to connect with them after the fair and hope to keep in touch with them in the future! I was not familiar with WFPG prior to this event, but it seems like a great organization and I would love to get more involved with future events!"

– Yekaterina Reyzis, The George Washington University

Washington, DC – The WFPG **DC Mentoring Fair**, co-sponsored by The George Washington University Career Center, took place on March 9, 2010 and was attended by over 130 students and young professionals. Students attended from universities across the region including George Washington, Georgetown, American, Howard, Maryland, William and Mary, Johns Hopkins, and UPenn. The event gave participants an opportunity to speak with accomplished professionals in such fields as the US Government, the Department of State, international law and business, non-profit organizations, and human rights and refugees. After a formal discussion period, mentees were free to network and speak individually with mentors.



Visit www.wfpg.org for more photos, transcripts, audio, and press coverage of our events.

Contact us at programs@wfpg.org or 202-884-8597.

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