

# THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS



Dr. John Duke Anthony, President and CEO of the National Council on U.S. Arab Relations

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations convened its 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



Ambassador Dr. Imad Moustapha, Ambassador of Syria to the United States

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



Ambassador Ford Fraker, Ambassador of the United States to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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 re-examined 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



HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal, Chairman, King Faisal Foundation; former Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States



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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 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1983-2008) of promot-

ing 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.



Ambassador Wyche Fowler, former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Dr. Nadia Hijab, Senior Fellow, Institute for Palestine Studies



Mr. Daniel Levy, Director, Prospects for Peace Initiative, The Century Foundation



Ms. Muna AbuSulayman, Managing Director, HRH Prince Awaleed bin Talal Kingdom Foundation



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



Hon. David Bohigian, Asst. Secretary for Market Access and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce



General Wesley K. Clark (USA, Ret.), Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe



Dr. Kenneth Katzman, Senior Middle East Affairs Specialist, Congressional Research Service



Ms. Karen Harbert, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; former Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy



Ms. Nablah M. Al-Tunisi, Ras Tanura Integrated Petrochemical Project, a joint venture of Saudi ARAMCO and Dow Chemical



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



Mr. James Burkhard, Cambridge Energy Research Associates - Managing Director, Global Oil Group



Mr. Jay M. Pryor, Vice President for Corporate Business Development, Chevron Corporation



Rear Admiral Harold J. Bernsen, (USN, Ret.) - Chairman, Board of Directors, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



Dr. Anthony H. Cordesman, Arleigh Burke Chair in Strategy, Center for Strategic and International Studies



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



Amb. Edward W. "Skip" Gnehm, Jr., Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University



Ambassador Barbara Bodine, Diplomat-in-Residence, Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs, Princeton University



H.E. Dr. Marwan Muasher, Senior VP of External Affairs, The World Bank; former Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Ambassador Walter Cutler, former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; President Emeritus, Meridian International Center



Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft (USAF, Ret.), President and Founder of the Scowcroft Group



H.E. Houda Ezra Nonoo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United States



Mr. David D. Arnold, President, American University of Cairo



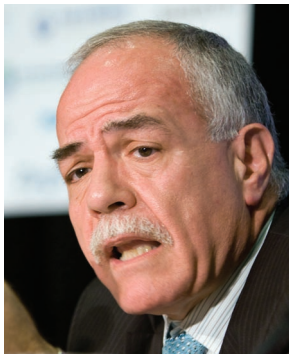
Ambassador Chas. W. Freeman, Jr., President, Middle East Policy Council and former U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



H.E. Ali Suleiman Aujali, Ambassador of the Great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United States



Dr. Abderrahim Foukara, Washington Bureau Chief, Al-Jazeera International



Mr. Hisham Melhem, Washington Bureau Chief, Al-Arabiya



Ms. Dalia Mogahed, Senior Analyst and Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies





Mr. Mohamed Elenshawy, Editor in Chief, Taqir Washington



H.E. Dr. Hussein Hassouna, Ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States



General Joseph P. Hoar (USMC, Ret.), former Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command



Mr. Patrick Mancino, Vice-President and Director of Development, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



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