



Advice to the Incoming American President on EU-US Relations

The Aspen Institute, One Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, DC

Friday, October 3, 2008, 12:00pm to 1:30pm

EVENT REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On Friday October 3, 2008, at the Aspen Institute's headquarters in Washington, DC, the Council of Women World Leaders at the Aspen Institute hosted an intimate dialogue between **former** United States Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright (1997-2001) and the Honorable Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders' Ministerial Initiative, titled *Advice to the Incoming American President on EU – US Relations*. The dialogue was introduced by the Aspen Institute's President and CEO, Walter Isaacson, and moderated by the Aspen Institute's Executive Vice President for Leadership and Seminar Programs, Peter Reiling. This discussion was part of the Council's and the Institute's ongoing *Madeleine K. Albright Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Series* and was attended by more than 130 individuals from government, corporations, nonprofit organizations, think tanks, embassies, and the media.

In addition to the advice given by Secretary Albright and Vice President Wallström, those in attendance had an opportunity to ask questions of the women leaders and a press conference was held immediately following.

The dialogue generated discussion around a variety of global issues and highlighted that the relationship between the European Union and the United States is essential, and that, if further strengthened, this partnership can help address the multitude of challenges faced by all nations. Specifically, the speakers discussed the following topics and how the next American president might approach them:

- Differences in relations with the European Union under each of the American presidential candidates;
- Emerging financial crisis in the United States and its impact on the European Union;
- United States and European Union roles in global democracy building;
- Strategies for confronting terrorism;
- Ways in which the United States and the European Union can address the relationship with Russia;
- United States and European Union diplomatic approaches toward Iran;
- Strategies to address the energy and climate change crisis;
- Perspectives of women politicians in the United States and the European Union on global issues; and,
- The crisis in Darfur and the role of the International Criminal Court.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Council of Women World Leaders, jointly with the Aspen Institute, has established the *Madeleine K. Albright Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Series (Albright Series)*. In its ongoing work with women leaders internationally, the Council has a strong history of bringing expert practitioners, scholars, politicians, and activists together to address issues of great importance to women. The Council is committed to ensuring the presence of women at the decision-making tables, ranging from positions in executive offices and legislative chambers to participation in keynote speeches and roundtable panel discussions. The *Albright Series* focuses on global issues, including areas of significant importance to women, areas where women have already taken the lead and those where urgent action is needed.

The United States is in the midst of a historic presidential campaign drawing worldwide attention. The next American president faces a variety of challenges on different fronts. As part of the *Albright Series*, the Council of Women World Leaders ("the Council") and the Aspen Institute ("the Institute") brought together former US Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright (1997-2001) and the Honorable Margot Wallström, Vice President of the European Commission and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders' Ministerial Initiative, to offer their advice to the incoming US president on relations between the European Union and the United States.

The European Union (EU) and the United States (US) have a long history and a complex relationship that has undergone many changes throughout the decades. In the years following World War II, Western European nations - most of whom joined together to form the EU - and the US enjoyed not only strong economic ties as well as familial and cultural ties from their intertwined histories, but also shared the ideals of respect for human rights, liberty, law, and democracy. These ties were further strengthened after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and of the Iron Curtain when most newly liberated countries of Eastern Europe either joined the EU or applied for membership. The EU now boasts 27 member countries, a population of 500 million, and is the largest economic body in the world with an aggregate GDP of almost \$15 trillion. In comparison, the US has a population of just over 300 million people and a GDP of \$13.1 trillion in a country with over twice the geographic area of the EU. The EU and the US comprise the largest trading partnership in the world reaching \$446 billion in 2006. Besides these economic ties and their alliance during the Cold War, the EU and the US have worked together on collective policies of security, nuclear nonproliferation, environment and climate change, human rights, and poverty eradication. As proof of their shared ideals, it is important to note that the EU and the US collectively provide 80 percent of all global development assistance, and an even larger share of humanitarian and disaster relief efforts. While differing on certain issues, these alliances, along with similar domestic and foreign policy priorities, have strengthened the transatlantic bond between the EU and the US and have increased their influence within the multitude of multinational and multilateral organizations to which they are members, such as NATO and the WTO. This mutually-beneficial political and economic relationship has had worldwide impact, influencing military actions, the use of diplomacy, and cultural expression.

Against this backdrop, the dialogue between Secretary Albright and Vice President Wallström analyzed current EU-US relations and drew recommendations for the next American president with respect to the transatlantic alliance. This event provided an opportunity for political analysts,

government representatives, international experts from NGOs, and international business people to witness an exchange of views on transatlantic relations, to be made aware of the role of and need for women leaders in the highest posts in the EU and US, and to hear the advice of two of the world's most influential women leaders to the next American president.

SUMMARY OF DIALOGUE

The discussion was introduced by Aspen Institute President and CEO, Walter Isaacson. The dialogue was moderated by the Executive Vice President of the Aspen Institute's Leadership and Seminar Programs, Peter Reiling.

Secretary Albright began by addressing the essential relationship between the EU and the US and acknowledged that, at times, this relationship is a challenging one to manage. She also recommended that the EU spend less time analyzing its domestic disagreements and provide additional help with global issues. Vice President Wallström agreed that the EU should spend less time debating its constitution and start talking more about tangible issues. She regretted that EU – US relations was not mentioned at all in the American vice presidential debate that occurred the evening before the event.

The first topic of discussion was the possible differences in relations with the EU under each of the American presidential candidates. Vice President Wallström mentioned that the EU expects a commitment to free trade and against protectionism, as well as a multilateral approach (global solutions to global problems) from whichever candidate is elected. Secretary Albright added that both candidates understood the importance of close collaboration with Europe, but Senator Obama talked more about using soft power in relationship to Europe. European surveys indicated a preference for Senator Obama.

The emerging financial crisis in the US and its impact on the EU was the next item analyzed. Secretary Albright stated that there were larger topics to be discussed than single financial policies, such as the need to talk about regulations and the politics of regulations. Certain politicians were playing politics when it came to reforming or establishing regulations. Vice President Wallström noted that more effective regulation could be achieved through competition and increased transparency.

Moderator Reiling asked both speakers to provide their insights on US and EU roles in global democracy building. Secretary Albright criticized the current US administration for imposing democracy and expressed the need to provide support for the promotion of democracy instead. She highlighted that political development and economic development must work hand in hand. Vice President Wallström outlined the EU approach to aid and trade with developing countries and spoke of the need to bolster these countries through cooperation based on their priorities.

The discussion moved forward to strategies for confronting terrorism. Vice President Wallström and Secretary Albright both stressed that the fight against terrorism needed to focus on the root causes such as poverty, conflict, and marginalization because it was these factors which made people more likely to join terrorist groups and endeavors. Both speakers agreed that preserving our civil liberties and respecting human rights was essential despite the magnitude of this struggle and that torture was not a method that should be used.

This was followed by a discussion on how the US and the EU should address the relationship with Russia. Both speakers expressed concern that a return to the Cold War was not the answer. Vice President Wallström advised that the EU had a special insight on Russia since many EU nations

were former Soviet states. She recommended open engagement with the Russian Federation including discussion on human rights. A clear statement of unacceptable behaviors was warranted and this could be expressed through financial measures.

Regarding US and EU policies towards Iran, Secretary Albright advocated meeting with Iranian diplomats with no preconditions, in a joint effort by the next American president and the EU. Vice President Wallström advised that the discussion be framed in terms of UN resolutions, which might then move towards further restrictions, if necessary.

Moderator Reiling turned the dialogue to the energy and climate change crisis. Vice President Wallström warned that the US and the EU needed to alter their timetable for addressing global warming. The longer the problem went on the more damaging and more expensive it would become. The US and the EU could learn much from each other on ways to overcome dependence on foreign oil. It was imperative for the EU and the US to focus on related treaties that they agree on and to work together towards agreed objectives. It was important to focus on opportunities (e.g. renewable energy, such as wind energy) rather than the difficulties. At the moment, too much emphasis was placed on the problem, the burden, and the costs. While there was huge potential in the US to adopt clean energy technologies, the general level of awareness regarding climate change/environment issues was higher in Europe. Secretary Albright recommended stressing the innovation aspect of the renewable energy market, the jobs that could be created and the fact that the environment cannot be a “luxury issue.”

Finally, Secretary Albright and Vice President Wallström commented on various perspectives for women politicians in the US and the EU. Vice President Wallström stressed that the problems encountered by women and the experiences of women decision-makers in the EU and the US were similar, such as the pay gap, violence against women and work/life balance issues. She highlighted that women in the EU accounted for 52% of the population, but only 30% of parliamentary representatives. Equal representation was a question of democracy. Secretary Albright stressed that the EU, especially Scandinavia, has done a much better job on equal representation than the US. She warned that in politics the agenda of the decision-maker was important, not just their gender. With respect to global issues, Vice President Wallström felt that women politicians, when faced with the question of security, often defined it in terms of access to education, clean water, and saving the family structure whereas men tended to define it more traditionally in terms of military power.

Following the discussion, Secretary Albright and Vice President Wallström took questions from the audience. On the crisis in Darfur and the role of the International Criminal Court, Secretary Albright advised that the US help the African Union more in dealing with the situation in Darfur. The Secretary believed that nations had a responsibility to provide protection to their people and when they fail to do so, other nations can step in to help those in need. Additionally, in such instances, the International Criminal Court should not be prevented from indicting the criminals responsible. Another audience member made the point that the focus in Iraq and Afghanistan had been on troops, with little mention of foreign aid for reconstruction and development. Vice President Wallström reiterated that Afghanistan was a long-term commitment and that Europe was already doing a lot in terms of reconstruction, though their role might increase. Secretary Albright added that the Europeans had the resources to help with reconstruction efforts in both Afghanistan and Iraq. The analogy she used was the US’ role in global affairs after WWI and WWII which

included post-war reconstruction. Irrespective of disagreements on US involvement and presence in Iraq, Europe should provide more assistance training Iraqi police and providing aid to stabilize the region. Vice President Wallström agreed and suggested that with the incoming American president, there would be a new opportunity to discuss such issues. Another member of the audience expressed concern with the militarization of the diplomatic process. Secretary Albright recalled her concern with the fact that the US State Department is in receipt of insufficient funds to accomplish the tasks at hand. Lastly, it was noted that the current administration's unilateral and uni-dimensional (militarily) approach is troublesome.



Advice to the Incoming American President on EU-US Relations

Featuring

Secretary Madeleine K. Albright & The Honorable Margot Wallström

Introductions: Walter Isaacson, President & CEO, The Aspen Institute

**Moderator: Peter Reiling, Executive Vice President for Leadership and Seminar Programs,
The Aspen Institute**

Friday, October 3, 2008

PROGRAM

12:00pm: Guest arrival and lunch

12:20pm – 12:25pm: Walter Isaacson – Welcoming Remarks, Overview of the Council,
Introduction of Secretary Albright and Vice-President Wallström

12:25pm – 12:35pm: Moderator Peter Reiling introduces the discussion topic

12:35pm-12:40pm: Secretary Albright - Opening remarks

12:40pm-12:45pm: Vice-President Wallström – Opening remarks

12:45pm-1:10pm: Moderated discussion between Peter Reiling, Secretary Albright, and Vice-
President Wallström

1:10pm-1:30pm: Moderated Q&A with participants

1:30pm-1:50pm: Press conference with Secretary Albright and Vice-President Wallström in
Medium Conference Room

BIOGRAPHIES

Secretary of State - Madeleine K. Albright

Madeleine K. Albright is a Principal of The Albright Group LLC, a global strategy firm, and Chair and Principal of Albright Capital Management LLC, an investment advisory firm focused on emerging markets. Dr. Albright was the 64th Secretary of State of the United States. In 1997, she was named the first female Secretary of State and became, at that time, the highest ranking woman in the history of the US government. As Secretary of State, Dr. Albright reinforced America's alliances, advocated democracy and human rights, and promoted American trade and business, labor, and environmental standards abroad. From 1993 to 1997, Dr. Albright served as the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations and as a member of the President's Cabinet. She is the first Michael and Virginia Mortara Endowed Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. She chairs both the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, and the Pew Global Attitudes Project and serves as president of the Truman Scholarship Foundation. Dr. Albright co-chairs the UNDP's Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, serves on the Board of Directors of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Board of Trustees for the Aspen Institute and the Board of Directors of the Center for a New American Security. Dr. Albright earned a B.A. with Honors from Wellesley College, and Master's and Doctorate degrees from Columbia University's Department of Public Law and Government, as well as a Certificate from its Russian Institute. Dr. Albright is author of three New York Times best-sellers. Her autobiography, *Madam Secretary: A Memoir*, was published in 2003. In 2006, Dr. Albright published *The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs*. Her latest book, *Memo to the President: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership* was published in 2008.

European Commission Vice President - Margot Wallström

Margot Wallström was born on 28 September 1954 in Sweden.

She entered politics shortly after graduating from high school in 1973 and worked as an Ombudsman for the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League. In 1979 she was elected as a Member of the Swedish Parliament where she served for six years.

Her ministerial career began in 1988 when she was appointed as Minister of Civil Affairs – Consumer Affairs, Women and Youth (1988-1991). She later served as Minister of Culture (1994-1996) and Social Affairs (1996-1998). In 1998 she retired from Swedish politics to become Executive Vice-President of Worldview Global Media – an NGO based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The following year she was appointed as a Member of the European Commission under President Romano Prodi, and was given responsibility for EU environmental policy. In 2004, when President Barroso was appointed, she became Commission Vice-President with responsibility for Inter-institutional Relations and Communication. She was the first Commissioner to publish a web-log in which she comments on recent political developments.

Margot Wallström has received honorary doctorates from Chalmers University, Sweden (2001), Mälardalen University, Sweden (2004) and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell (2005). Other distinctions include being voted "Commissioner of the Year" by the European Voice newspaper in 2002. In 2004, together with Göran Färm, Member of the European Parliament, she published the book "The People's Europe or Why is it so hard to love the EU?" ("Folkens Europa eller Varför är det så svårt att älska EU?").

Since November, 2007, Margot Wallström has been the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders Ministerial Initiative.

Margot Wallström is married, with two children.

President and CEO of the Aspen Institute - Walter Isaacson

Walter Isaacson has been the Chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of Time Magazine. He is the author of Einstein: His Life and Universe, Benjamin Franklin: An American Life (2003), and Kissinger: A Biography (1992) and is the coauthor of The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made (1986).

Isaacson was born on May 20, 1952, in New Orleans. He is a graduate of Harvard College and of Pembroke College of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

He began his career at the Sunday Times of London and then the New Orleans Times-Picayune/States-Item. He joined Time Magazine in 1978 and served as a political correspondent, national editor and editor of new media before becoming the magazine's 14th managing editor in 1996. He became Chairman and CEO of CNN in 2001, and then president and CEO of the Aspen Institute in 2003.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he was appointed by Governor Kathleen Blanco to be the vice-chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. In December 2007, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to be the chairman of the US-Palestinian Partnership, a government and private sector effort to provide economic and educational opportunities for the Palestinian people. He is the Chairman of the Board of Teach for America, and he is on the boards of United Airlines, Tulane University, and Science Service. He is also on the advisory councils of the National Institutes of Health, the National Constitution Center, and the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC.

He lives with his wife and daughter in Washington, DC.

Executive Vice President, Leadership and Seminar Programs at the Aspen Institute and Executive Director, Henry Crown Fellowship Program - Peter A. Reiling

Peter A. Reiling oversees the Aspen Institute's growing portfolio of leadership initiatives (the Aspen Global Leadership Network) and seminars (including The Aspen Seminar, offered at the Institute since 1950) as well as its flagship leadership program.

Peter is a trustee, officer and senior moderator of the Aspen Institute, a Henry Crown Fellow (Class of 1998), and the founder of the Africa Leadership Initiative (ALI), a joint venture between the Aspen Institute and five African business leaders. ALI has since been replicated in Central America as "CALI" and in India as "ILI" with plans to expand into China, the Mideast and Central Europe. Similar programs have also been launched in the fields of politics, education and the environment with plans to expand into health and social entrepreneurship. The goal of all these ventures is to stimulate a new generation of accomplished, entrepreneurial leaders to play a greater role in the social and political development of their communities and countries.

Prior to joining the Aspen Institute, from 1996 to 2004, Peter was President and CEO of TechnoServe, an international organization helping entrepreneurs across Africa, Latin America, and Central Europe to build businesses in their communities (www.tns.org). He is co-founder of the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs and currently serves as chairman of the board of the CALI Foundation as well as on the boards of ALI/East Africa, ALI/West Africa, ALI/South Africa, Agora Partnerships and the Energy Access Foundation. Peter is a former adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and guest lecturer at the Institute for Developing Economies in Tokyo. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations as well as the Bretton Woods Committee, and was named "Outstanding Social Entrepreneur" by the Schwab Foundation in Geneva. A graduate of Georgetown University (BSFS) and the University of California/Berkeley (MBA), with additional studies at the Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Peter is married to Denise Byrne and is the father of two children, Dylan and Eva Luna.

Registered Attendees

Allen, Wynter
Attorney
The Office of General Counsel at International
Brotherhood of Teamsters

Albright, Madeleine K.
US Secretary of State

Angvik, Jane
Owner
Angvik and Associates

Apple, Martin A.
President
Council of Scientific Society Presidents

Asada, Matthew
Political and Economic Chief
US Consulate General
Kolkata, India

Ask, Ingrid
First Secretary (Political Section)
Embassy of Sweden

Ayres Burk, Judith
Former Assistant Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency

Bagley, Elizabeth H.E.
US Ambassador (Former)
Portugal

Bass, Josie A.
President
Alva Consortium

Beirne, Cecilia
Portfolio Manager
MicroVest - Financial Women's Association

Bell, Nan

Bergenfelt, Anne
Cabinet of Vice President Margot Wallström

Bergmann, Christina
Correspondent
German International Radio

Bernhard, Berl
Trustee
The Aspen Institute

Bigos, Kristin
PostDoc IRTA
National Institute of Mental Health

Billings, Jane
Senior Assistant Deputy
Minister Planning and Public Health Integration

Blum, Barbara
Board Member
Stimson Center

Blumenthal, Susan J.
CSP Senior Advisor for Health and Medicine
Center for the Study of the Presidency

Bordwell, C.J.
Managing Director
Sheridan Marketing

Bridgewater, Pamela
Cabinet Minister
US Department of State

Brink, Nana
Freelance Journalist

Brion, Kathleen
US Department of State

Buchanan, Martha
President
MBL Productions

Buchanan, Gleibys
Representative for the Advancement of Women
Office of External Affairs
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the
United States

Cary, Margaret
Deputy Chief Business Officer
Veterans Health Administration

Chang Bloc, Julia H.E.
Ambassador (Former)
Kingdom of Nepal

Christensen, Cheryl
Deputy Director for International Programs and
Policy Analysis - Market and Trade Economics
Division
Economic Research Service

Christodou, Demetra
Second Secretary / Consul
Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus

Chu, Carissa
amfAR, Foundation for AIDS Research

Coleman, Carolyn C.
Acting Director - Central and South Asia Desk
USAID

Cox, Paula A.
Hon. Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance
Government of Bermuda

Cox, Jean
Advisory Board Member
Kravis Leadership Institute

Cox, Claudette
Cox Associates

Cucuzza, Laurette
Senior Reproductive Health Advisor
CEDPA

D'Auchamp, Elisabeth
Intern / Press, Information & Cultural Affairs
Royal Danish Embassy

De Borchgrave, Arnaud
Director and Senior Adviser, Transnational
Threats Project
CSIS

De Fabio, Alessia
Washington Bureau

ANSA

Dockser, Sonnie
President
Dockser Family Foundation

Dub, Christa

Dubin, Ian
Director of Communications
National Youth Leadership Forum

Duff, Jean
Executive Director
Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty

Dumitrasc, Alina
Office Manager
Council of Women World Leaders

Elbech, Pernille
Senior Advisor, Public Diplomacy & Press
Royal Danish Embassy

Ellis, Tom
Washington bureau chief, Senior Diplomatic
Columnist, Kathimerini
IHT

Facenec, Sarah
Associate Director of Policy and Communication
Center for the Study of the Presidency

Fischer, Victor
Professor Emeritus
University of Alaska

Fleischner, Justine
PCR Project Intern

Friedman, Lisa
Deputy Editor
ClimateWire

Gantén, Anne
Executive Director
The Atlantic Partnership

George, Suzy
Principal and Managing Director

The Albright Group

Gibbens, Elizabeth
Gibbons, Maureen
Intern
Council of Women World Leaders
The Aspen Institute

Gnaedinger, Charles
Tax Analysts

Goings, Stella
Senior Advisor, HIV/AIDS
Office of Sustainable Development
USAID

Golan, Elise
Deputy Director for Research
Economic Research Service

Gorilovska, Nonna
Senior Editor
Moment Magazine

Grabin, Jacqueline Chairman
The European Institute

Grossman, Lindsey
Apco Worldwide

Haffert, Kristin
Director - Women's Political Participation
National Democratic Institute

Hammarskjö, Elinor
Head of the Department for International Law,
Human Rights and Treaty Law
Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Hamric, Caroline

Harned, Rebecca
Director of Operations
UPEACE/US

Harris, Barbara
Cofounder and Cochair
Envision EMI, Inc.

Helfman, Audrey
Associate Professor Leadership Program

CHEP, University of Delaware

Hjers, Karolina
Assistant to Vice President Wallström

Hoes, Laurie C.

Isaacson, Walter
President and CEO
The Aspen Institute

Johnson, Marlene
Executive Director and CEO
NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Kapp, Robert
Of Counsel
Hogan & Hartson LLP

Keaphley, Lisa
Assistant Dean Director, Career Development
Center
Georgetown University

Kelemen, Michelle
Diplomatic Correspondent
NPR

Keller, Matthew
Advisor
Embassy of Liechtenstein

Kelly, Lorelei
Policy Director
Real Security
The White House Project

Kirk, Beverly
Anchor
News Channel 8

Ko, Yi-An
amfAR, Foundation for AIDS Research

Kober, Stanley
Research Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies
Cato Institute

Konstantin, Natella
Elliott School of International Affairs

George Washington University

Koppell, Carla
Director
The Initiative for Inclusive Security
Hunt Alternatives Fund

Korologos, Ann
Trustee
The Aspen Institute

Krlev, Nicholas
Diplomatic Correspondent
The Washington Times

Kristenso, Emma
Trainee
Political Department
Embassy of Sweden

Kurfurst, Jaroslav
Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of the Czech Republic

Kürschner, Isabelle
Research Fellow / PhD Candidate
Hanns-Seidel-Foundation

Kyte, Cynthia
Manager, Partnership Development
GAVI Alliance

Lammila, Anne
Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of Finland

Lashomb, Katie
Resource Officer
Embassy of Papua New Guinea

Lee, Robyn
Public Affairs Assistant
The Albright Group

Leeds, Robin
Principal
Winning Strategies

Lipari, Lauren
Intern

The Albright Group

Loper, Thomas
MacKillop, Bridget
For My Sister

Madjirova, Rossalina
Secretary
Bulgarian Embassy

Maguire, Molly
International Women's Democracy Center

Marcuse, Joshua
President
Young Professionals in Public Policy

Martin, Dana
Assistant to CSP President/CEO David Abshire
Center for the Study of the Presidency

Mattox, Gale A.
Chair & Professor, Political Science Department
US Naval Academy

Mayer, Katherine D.
Trustee
The Aspen Institute

McCarter, Alissa
CHS

McDonald, Kristen Lang
The White House Project

McKenzie, Linda
Partner, Office of Public Policy
Ernst & Young

Mendelson, Johanna
Senior Associate, America's Program
Center for Strategic and International Studies

Mezzetti, Gueta

Mullen, Elise

Mutter, Justin
Special Assistant to Rear Admiral Susan
Blumenthal
Center for the Study of the Presidency

Nitze, William
Trustee
The Aspen Institute
and
Chairman
Gridpoint, Inc.

Noguera, Julio
Intern
Council of Women World Leaders
The Aspen Institute

Nohre, Christina
Freelance Writer

Nyack, Ed
Intern
Council of Women World Leaders
The Aspen Institute

O'Connor, Mary B.
Director of Outreach
Center for the Study of the Presidency

O'Connor, Dagmar
Author

Ogle, Richelle K.
Director, Major & Planned Giving
GAVI Alliance

Otani, Naoko
Realizing Rights
The Aspen Institute

Orpett, Natalie
Executive Assistant
The Albright Group

Parkhurst, Erica I.
President
Parkhurst Premier Events

Ragsdale, Katherine H. Reverend. Dr.
Public Research Associates

Reed, Rosemary
Author

Reiling, Peter
Executive Vice President for Leadership and
Seminar Programs, and Executive Director of the
Henry Crown Fellow
The Aspen Institute

Roberts, Elisabeth

Rodward, Alli
National Organization for Women

Sanders, Emily
American University

Schuettpel, Carrie
Master in Public Policy Candidate
Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University

Scott, Dean
Bureau of National Affairs
International Environment Reporter

Senninger, Jean-Paul H.E.
Ambassador of Luxembourg
Embassy of Luxembourg

Sherwin, Susan
Executive Vice President
The Aspen Institute

Smallwood, Anthony
Spokesman/Head of Press and Public Diplomacy
European Commission Delegation

Smith, Candace
MicroVest Capital Management

Stevens, Kristen

Stevenson, Brita
Program Manager
Council of Women World Leaders
The Aspen Institute

Stevenson, K. Margo

Sundholm, Mattias

Deputy Spokesperson
European Commission Delegation

Terban, Ashley

Turkat, Roberta

Uhlig, Marylouise
Director, OPMO
US Environmental Protection Agency

Von Hippel, Karin
CSIS

Wallström, Margot
Vice President
European Commission

Wehling, Hannah
Intern
Council of Women World Leaders
The Aspen Institute

Werling, Mary
Intern
Feminist Majority Foundation

Wilson, Felicia
Education Development Officer
USAID

Woltersdorf, Adrienne
Deutsche Welle Radio International

Wyatt, Tanya
Intern
Council of Women World Leaders
The Aspen Institute

Zeuthen, Kasper
Senior Press and Media Officer
European Commission Delegation

Zinberg, Dorothy
Lecturer in Public Policy
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University