

# The Briefing

*A Newsletter of The Alabama World Affairs Council / Fall 2012*

## **THIS FALL: Brian Latell on Castro's Secrets, Amb Edmund Hull on Yemen & Diplomacy, Dr. Nader Hashemi on Muslim Societies**

**BRIAN LATELL** will be the opening speaker on September 11. He is senior research associate at the Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies at the University of Miami, where he writes a monthly column on Cuba and teaches as an adjunct professor in political science. He concurrently is a non-resident senior associate in the Americas Program of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, where he was previously on staff for three years. He is the recipient of numerous academic and professional awards.



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He has been a Latin America and Caribbean specialist for the last four decades. During his 35 years of intelligence service in the USAF, the CIA, and the National Intelligence Council, he advised the White House and other ranking American officials and members of Congress on Latin American developments. From 1990–1994 he was the national intelligence officer for Latin America, the highest ranking position for the region in all of the U.S. intelligence agencies. Before retiring from government service in 1998, he was the director of the Center for the Study of Intelligence.

Dr. Latell has written several books about the Castro regime, including *After Fidel: The Inside Story of Castro's Regime and Cuba's Next Leader*. His most recent book is *Castro's Secrets: The CIA and Cuba's Intelligence Machine*, the first substantial look at Castro's intelligence operations. It has already stirred controversy, including accounts of how Castro's spies have carried out political

murders, penetrated the U.S. government, and generally, as he indicates, outwitted their American counterparts.

Dr. Latell taught at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University for 26 years as an adjunct professor and was a senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is a graduate of Georgetown, where he also earned his Ph.D. A native New Yorker, he currently splits his time between Miami and Washington.

### **A**MBASSADOR EDMUND HULL,

who served in the U.S. State Department as a foreign service officer for 30 years, was sent to Yemen after 9/11 to serve as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Yemen. He filled that post from 2001–2004. Following his retirement from government service, he was the diplomat in residence at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs from 2005–2007. He is a Princeton graduate.



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He served both Presidents Clinton and Bush as deputy, then acting coordinator for the Bureau of Counterterrorism in the Department of State. He also served as director for Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs, deputy chief of mission, U.S. Embassy Cairo, director for Near East Affairs on the National Security Council, and director for Northern Gulf Affairs (Iraq and Iran) during Operation Desert Storm.

Ambassador Hull has received numerous honors, including the CIA's George H. W. Bush Award for

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Excellence in Counterterrorism, a Presidential Meritorious Service Award for duty in Yemen, and the State Department's Award for Excellence in the Direction and Management of Overseas Missions for work as Deputy Chief of Mission in Cairo. Ambassador Hull's views on Yemen have been featured on "60 Minutes," "CNN," the *New York Times*, and *Al Jazeera*. His op ed piece, "Al Qaeda's Shadowland," ran in the *New York Times* on January 11, 2010. His book *High-Value Target: Countering Al Qaeda in Yemen* was published by Potomac Books in April, 2011. The American Academy of Diplomacy has selected *High-Value Target* for the 2011 Douglas Dillon Award for Distinguished Writing on Diplomacy.

He is currently a consultant to Telum Protection Corporation. He lists his present occupation as sailor.

**DR. NADER HASHEMI** is the director of the Center for Middle East Studies and an assistant professor of Middle East and Islamic Politics at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver (2008-present).

Prior to assuming his present post, he was a visiting assistant professor at the University of California-Los Angeles and global fellow, UCLA International Institute (2007-2008); Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellow, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (2005-2007); research



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affiliate, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University (2005-2006); adjunct professor, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto (2004-2005); and adjunct professor, Department of Political Science, University of Waterloo (2003-2004).

Born and raised in Canada to Iranian-immigrant parents, he graduated from the University of Western Ontario, got his MA from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, and earned his PhD from the University of Toronto. He is quickly becoming a leading expert on the Middle East, Islamic affairs, and Islam-West relations. His work has appeared on such outlets as *Time* magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, the "PBS News Hour," and "CBS News," among others.

Author of many articles and other publications, most recently in *Philosophy & Social Criticism and Constellations*, he is the author of *Islam, Secu-*

*larism, and Liberal Democracy: Toward a Democratic Theory for Muslim Societies* (Oxford University Press, 2009) and co-editor of *The People Reloaded: The Green Movement and the Struggle for Iran's Future* (Melville House, 2011).

In *Islam, Secularism, and Liberal Democracy*, Dr. Hashemi challenges the widely held belief among social scientists that religious politics and liberal-democratic development are structurally incompatible. The book argues for a rethinking of democratic theory so that it incorporates the variable of religion in the development of liberal democracy. He holds that Muslim secularism is not only possible, but is a necessary requirement for the advancement of liberal democracy in Muslim societies. While there are certainly tensions between religion and democracy, he believes the two are not irreconcilable.

Speaker Bing West, Feb 7, 2012



## Death of Board Member Jon Beans

**J**on Beans, a reporter and host on Alabama Public Television for two decades and a World Affairs Council Board member since 1996, died on June 13th from sickle cell anemia. Jon was 50 years old. He worked for Alabama Public Television from 1990–2011, serving as producer and public affairs director. He was a powerful voice for our council, arranging for many of our speakers to be interviewed on “For the Record” and “Capitol Journal.” Rest in peace, Jon.

## Membership Healthy, Finances Satisfactory

**A**t the end of last program year, AWAC membership had stayed steady at about 430. Our finances were bolstered by many members paying well above the minimum dues, by a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and by the support of the following sponsors and cosponsors:

**SPONSORS:** Balch & Bingham, Johnson Sterling Inc. of Birmingham (Sam Johnson), Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, and Stifel Nicolaus.

**COSPONSORS:** Alabama State University, Brewbaker Motors, Cohens Electronics, Dixie Electric Company, Kwik-Kopy Shop, and Montgomery County Commission (Ham Wilson).

We owe a huge thank you to these civic-minded organizations. In addition, there were two anonymous gifts totaling \$1,500.

## Board Member Profile: Skip Dotherow

**D**r. James E. (Skip) Dotherow is a native son of Montgomery (born here) although he spent 33 years away while serving in the active military, as a college administrator, and as an Air Force reservist. During his 33 years of military service, he served with the U.S. Army, 1st Cavalry Division, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense HUMINT Service. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War, where he was a rifleman and company clerk with the 7th Cavalry Regiment, and of Desert Storm (Iraq), and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), where he served in the intelligence field.

Skip went to high school in Austin, Texas and Rudyard, Michigan and holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Auburn University Montgomery. He earned a doctorate in higher education from the University of Oregon.

Skip has been on the Alabama World Affairs Council Board of Directors for six years and serves on the executive committee. He has been an active participant in the membership development and fund raising efforts for AWAC. In 2005, in the temporary absence of the president, he volunteered to assume the administrative burden of the council.

When he returned to Montgomery, for eight years he was the executive vice president at Ballard Realty, working for Bowen Ballard, the AWAC vice president. He has served as president of Air Force

Association Chapter 102 in Montgomery and now serves as the state president for the AFA. He currently is the post commander of VFW Post 4176 in Montgomery. He is active with the Chamber of Commerce, and he and his wife, Terry, are community interface partners with the Air War College. He serves currently as the director of development for the Civil Air Patrol at Maxwell AFB and is a member of the National Committee on Planned Giving.

Skip is a man of many interests. In 2000, he and his wife, a 5th grade teacher at Blount Elementary, spent seven weeks on an archeology dig in southern Jordan. Following that, he helped sponsor a traveling exhibit of the pottery examples uncovered in the Bronze Age city they were excavating. One of the rare finds was a fertility amulet in the shape of a bulls head; it remains one of five in existence in the Museum of Antiquity in Amman, Jordan.

Skip and Terry have two grown children, one living in Tuscaloosa and the other in school at Auburn. They share their home in Edgewood with Molly, their 18-month-old golden retriever.

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## Executive Director's Corner: Dr. James Nathan

Africa appears as if it's going to make it, with a big hand from the United States. Notwithstanding a history of suspicion, and not a little neglect, and despite economic miseries here and abroad, Congress has mustered remarkable support for the Department of State and US humanitarian programs in the last decade.

From the year 2000 to mid 2012, the State Department budget increased 150 per cent and the diplomatic service grew 50 percent. The real support has come from Bush era initiatives on foreign aid.

In the summer of 2012, *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof met a coffin maker in Lesotho who complained that American funded AIDS medicine had impacted his business adversely: coffin production had fallen from some 20 coffins a month to five or six.

Global AIDS peaked in 2004. AIDS infected half a million African children a year. This summer, Secretary of State Clinton proclaimed that an AIDS-free generation was within sight, thanks to American-led initiatives. Dr. Peter Piot, the former executive director of the United Nations program against AIDS, noted, "There are probably very few examples in international aid that can demonstrate such dramatic, direct impact."

How to account for the Department of State's and Congress's willingness to aid the less fortunate? The answer lies in a new national

security consensus.

"Heretical argument[s]" were advanced by Defense and the Joint Chiefs regarding the militarization of U.S. foreign policy. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates noted that he never missed "an opportunity to call for more funding for and emphasis on diplomacy and development."

As Gates confessed, his pitch to increase the State Department's budget was not an easy sell politically. Especially since many in Congress felt the effort took away monies from "tank miles" and days "steaming" at seas as well as the sense that it was not DoD's role to fund essentially a civilian mission."

But the commitment of the Defense Department has been tangible. In 2012, after State Department's monies for security related assistance was eliminated by Congress, Defense transferred monies to the State Department.

President Bush said his "medical version of the Marshall Plan" came from his 1990 visit to Gambia, a vastly underdeveloped nation in West Africa. No doubt, as former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recalls, the president's "ties to the evangelical Christian community" were central to his interest in Africa.

Then too, Bush framed his development initiative in terms of the challenge of terrorism. This helped to "sell" these programs to a Congress that had been hostile to devel-

opment assistance. Bush explained, "Before 9/11, I had considered alleviating disease and poverty a humanitarian mission. After the attacks, it became clear to me that this was more than a mission of conscience. Our national security was tied directly to human suffering."

One former member of Congress told me this spring, "The old argument for foreign aid was 'It's the right thing to do.' However, now foreign aid is a national security argument—failed or failing states are dangerous." In 1998, al Qaeda struck the American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. Then, the American presence in Africa was an easy target.

But ten years later, George W. Bush visited Africa and was "greeted by rock star crowds. People now understand that while poverty does not cause terrorism, complete destitution leads to despair, and extremists know how to use despair to recruit people."

The current administration has continued Bush's programs. If we succeed in eliminating one of the greatest scourges since the Black Death, American generations to come will know it is an achievement to rank with the resurrection of Europe and the defeat of aggressive tyranny in the century just past. Africa has seven out of the ten fastest growing economies. American help has been essential.

Check out our web site! [awac.us](http://awac.us)

