

News Release:

CFR and Aspen Institute India Collaborate on U.S.-India “Vital National Interests” Dialogue

May 10, 2011—The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and the Aspen Institute India announced today the formation of the U.S.-India Joint Group on shared national interests. The group—composed of former government officials and scholars from both countries—is co-chaired by **Robert Blackwill**, former U.S. ambassador to India and CFR senior fellow, and **Naresh Chandra**, former Indian ambassador to the United States and chairman of India’s National Security Advisory Board.

The group will provide policy recommendations in seven areas: the rise of Chinese power, the status of Pakistan, the future of Afghanistan, ongoing changes in the Middle East, opportunities for global and bilateral economic cooperation, joint efforts on climate change and energy technology development, and possibilities for defense cooperation. Findings will be released following the concluding meeting on September 16.

Members from the United States:

- **Graham Allison**, director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University; former assistant secretary of defense
- **Dennis Blair**, former director of national intelligence; former commander-in-chief of U.S. Pacific Command
- **Richard Haass**, CFR president; former director of policy planning for State Department
- **Stephen Hadley**, senior adviser to the United States Institute of Peace; former national security adviser
- **John Podesta**, president and chief executive officer, Center for American Progress; former White House chief of staff
- **Ashley Tellis**, senior associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; former senior director on the National Security Council staff; senior adviser in the State Department
- **Philip Zelikow**, professor, University of Virginia; former counselor at the State Department; former executive director of the 9/11 Commission

Members from India:

- **K. Shankar Bajpai**, founding chairman, Delhi Policy Group; former Indian ambassador to the United States
- **Sanjaya Baru**, editor, *Business Standard*; former media adviser and spokesperson for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh
- **Pramit Pal Chaudhuri**, foreign editor, *Hindustan Times*
- **P. S. Das**, former commander-in-chief, Indian Navy Eastern Naval Command
- **Tarun Das**, president, Aspen Institute India; former chief executive of the Confederation of Indian Industry
- **Jamshyd N. Godrej**, chairman and managing director of Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Ltd.
- **Brajesh Mishra**, former national security adviser and principal secretary to Prime Minister A. B. Vajpayee
- **C. Raja Mohan**, strategic affairs editor, *Indian Express*.

For more information, contact CFR Communications at 212.434.9888 or communications@cfr.org in New York and Aspen Institute India at +91-124 421 8619 in New Delhi.

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Aspen Institute India (Aii) promotes values-based leadership, open dialogue and cross-sector outreach by engaging the civil society, government, private sector, and other key stakeholders on issues related to India’s development. It invites industrial, economic, financial, political, social and cultural leaders to discuss these issues in settings that encourage frank and open dialogue.