Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Our fourth annual President's Speakers Series on Wednesday, November 28, will feature Philip Mudd, former high-ranking CIA and FBI official and a widely recognized, oft quoted expert on the subject of terrorism and counterterrorism.

Advance $50 paid reservations are required. See the enclosed insert.

Philip Mudd joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1985 as an analyst specializing in South Asia and then the Middle East. He began work in the CIA's Counterterrorist Center in 1992 and then served on the National Intelligence Council. He began a policy assignment at the White House in early 2001, where he was detailed from the CIA to serve on the National Security Council staff. He left shortly after the September 11 attacks to help establish a new government in Afghanistan. From 2003 to 2005, he served as deputy director of the CIA's Counterterrorist Center.

After the establishment of the FBI's National Security Branch in 2005, FBI Director Robert Mueller appointed Mudd as the branch's first deputy director. He later became the FBI's senior intelligence adviser. He resigned from government service in 2010 and currently heads a company that specializes in security consulting.

During his assignments at the CIA and the FBI, Mudd often testified about terrorism before Congress. Since then, he has commented on ABC, BBC, CBS, CNN, Fox, MSNBC, al-Jazeera, National Public Radio, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, and other major news outlets.

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A Warm Welcome to New Members

At our October 25 meeting, FPA President Michele Sellitto reported that our membership had grown to 245 individuals. We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Rebecca Bickley and John Glooch II, Camp Hill; Peg Kerwin, Camp Hill; Eileen Maunus and Dan Natirboff, Harrisburg; Richard and Joanne Sterner, Mechanicsburg; and Margie Thrope, Camp Hill.

We also welcome Noreen Quinn Kelly and Robert Kelly Jr., whose names were misreported in the September issue of our newsletter. We sincerely regret the error.

Our Sincere Thanks to the Sponsors

The President's Speakers Series is made possible through the auspices of the FPA and generous sponsors, who make it possible for us to bring in highly sought-after speakers, such as Philip Mudd.

We offer our sincere thanks to the following sponsors for this year’s special event: FPA members Elizabeth and Dr. Thomas Malin, $1,000; Dr. William Anderson, $500; and Herbert and Melba Bomberger, $500.

If you would like to add your name to the sponsors for the President's Speakers Series or for the upcoming International Fellows Reception, please contact one of the following: FPA President Michele Sellitto (717-968-1995 or msellitto@comcast.net); Sandra Boncarosky (717-761-3544 or sboncarosky@gmail.com); or Bonnie Dixon (717-884-1610 or bonniedixon7@gmail.com).

International Fellows Reception

Coming to you by mail later this month is an invitation to the 42nd annual International Fellows Reception at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle. Hosted by the FPA and the Army War College, this is an event you will not want to miss.

Your contribution to the Foreign Policy Association is deductible to the fullest extent of the law under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.
Mexican - U.S. Relations
Scribed by Kylee Petritsch
Lebanon Valley College

Alicia Kerber, who heads the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia, told the Foreign Policy Association on October 25 that Mexico has no intention of helping the United States build a wall along the border that separates the two countries.

It was the exact same message that FPA members received last May when they visited the Mexican Embassy in Washington, DC.

President Donald Trump promised in his 2016 campaign that the U.S would build a wall to help stem the tide of illegal immigrants entering the country from Mexico and other Latin American countries. He also pledged to make Mexico pay for it.

Kerber said the wall is none of Mexico's business. She also took issue with Trump's claims that many of the illegals crossing the border were criminals.

"There's no evidence showing that immigrants are more or less likely than anybody else to commit a crime," she said.

She noted that between 1990 and 2014, when the number of undocumented immigrants tripled, violent crime in the U.S. fell by 48 percent.

Kerber also sought to debunk claims that immigrants from Mexico and elsewhere were stealing American jobs. She argued that 87 percent of the jobs lost between 2000 and 2010 was due to automation.

Kerber said Mexico was an important trading partner to the U.S., being the second largest market for U.S. exports.

Kerber said the recently renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was fair to all parties - the U.S. Mexico and Canada. The original agreement, signed in 1993, resulted in an increase in U.S. jobs linked to trade with Mexico from 700,000 to 4.9 million, she added.

Tourism is another important link between the two countries, Kerber said, noting that in 2016 alone, 19 million Mexicans visited the U.S.

"Mexico is a strong and valuable neighbor to the U.S., sharing the same values and working closely with the U.S. in promoting safety and security," Kerber said.