

Inaugural meeting of the Global Strategy Group Middle East

Kuwait, 11-12 November 2005

Agenda

Friday, 11 November

12:30 - 14:00 (over lunch) - *Welcome remarks and introduction of the Roundtable*

14:15 – 15:45

Tour de table: Each participant will identify either a key area for concern or a major source of optimism for the 12 months ahead.

16:00 – 17:30

The Middle East is awash with money. What does it mean for the economic outlook of the region, and the economic and social fundamentals? Will we see a rerun of the wasted opportunities of the 70s or do we have better chances of an economic shift happening in the region?

18:00 – 19:30 -

*Is Al Qaeda being contained while Jihadism is on the rise?
What would this mean for security and stability in the region as well as for more pervasive terrorist risks in the world?*

20:30 – 22:15 - Working dinner

Have we seen the end of the Bush administration foreign policy activism? If so, what could that mean for the region over the next two years?

Saturday, 12 November

8:45 – 10:15 - *Prospective assessments:*

- *Saudi Arabia*
- *Egypt after the election*
- *Lebanon*
- *Syria*

10:30 – 11:45

Are we truly seeing the stirrings of some liberalization of political life in the region? Are there some factors that are radically changing – or have changed – in the region in that respect? If so what could be the mid-terms implications?

11:55 – 13:15

Assessing the course of events in Iraq: does the outcome of the referendum bring closer or farther the prospect for stabilization in the country? Is Iran significantly increasing its influence in Iraq, and what does it mean for the political and security balance in the Middle East? What could be the implications for Saudi Arabia?

13:30 – 15:00 (over lunch)

Has the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza altered the problematic of the Arab-Israeli conflict and in what direction?