

Interviewing History: Secretary of Defense Harold Brown



The team poses with Dr. Brown after the interview
From left: Sarah Lawrence, Chietigj Bajpae, Harold Brown, Craig Cohen, Rachel

On September 20, 2006, AILA's Interviewing History series continued with featured guest, the Honorable Harold Brown. Dr. Brown, a CSIS Trustee and Counselor, and former Secretary of Defense, was interviewed by CSIS associate staff Chietigj Bajpae, *Research Associate, International Security Program*; Craig Cohen, *Fellow, Post Conflict Reconstruction Project*; Sarah Lawrence, *Corporate Relations Associate, Strategic Planning*; and Rachel Posner, *Research Associate, Global Strategy Institute*. The topic of the discussion was President Jimmy Carter's controversial campaign promise to withdraw troops from the Korean Peninsula and how that promise challenged Dr. Brown as the President's newly appointed Secretary of Defense.

As the audience of over 80 attendees convened over dinner, the interview team rose to deliver the background of the little-known campaign pledge. The team set the tone for a major theme of the interview – the dilemma of appointed officials inheriting campaign promises that are made without their consult and sometimes against their personal assessment. During the interview, Dr. Brown identified this as a lasting leadership challenge of American democracy, and described how he handled the situation as a way of offering advice for how this and similar obstacles could be overcome.



The interview team on stage listens to Dr. Brown



Dr. Brown, the team, and guests enjoy dinner before the interview