

**Sent:** Mon, 30 May 2016 11:06:56 -0400  
**From:** "Strickler, Adam G. EOP/NSC" <adam\_g.\_strickler@nsc.eop.gov>  
**To:** "Rice, Susan" <susan\_e\_rice@nsc.eop.gov>, Strobe Talbott <stalbott@brookings.edu>, "Rice, Susan" </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=rice, susan e.818">  
**Subject:** RE: Thursday evening....

(adding SER's NSC email address)

-----Original Message-----

From: Strobe Talbott [mailto:STALBOTT@brookings.edu]  
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 9:30 AM  
To: Susan Rice (COS) <ahmedsal@state.gov>  
Cc: Strickler, Adam G. EOP/NSC <adam\_g.\_strickler@nsc.eop.gov>; Strickler, Adam G. EOP/NSC <adam\_g.\_strickler@nsc.eop.gov>  
Subject: Thursday evening....

P6/b(6)

Hi, Susan.

Before I get to this week's event, congrats on the President's trip - and, in particular, his extraordinary and admirable visit to Hiroshima. I hope you'll pardon a personal comment.

So now down to business - which I hope for you and Lois will also be a pleasure. As you know, we're going to honor you both not just as the only mother/daughter pair of Brookings scholars in our hundred-year history but also because both of you have achieved so much outside of Brookings and, in your case, in high public office.

Our conversation will be near the end of the evening, after the dinner. Just before the dinner, there will have been a 10-minute report to the guests on our centenary strategic plan ( "Brookings 2.0"). I will speak for 5 minutes summarizing the theme of the plan, which "improving governance," notably including global governance - a topic that obviously resonates with your current and previous job. My spiel will be followed immediately by a 5-minute video of clips from interviews with some of (mostly) younger scholars, each relating to her/his work to governance, including in the realm of world order.

When we get to the post-dinner part of the evening, it occurs to me we might use the opening of our conversation to note that when you and I worked together in the 90s, the world (with some obvious exceptions) seemed overall to be on a course of benevolent globalization, expansion and reinforcement of multilateralism, free trade, and regional integration. The trend now is in reverse: the return of zero-sum geopolitics, malignant non-state actors, a crisis in the EU, the rise of divisive nationalism - and growing hindrances to arms control and non-pro. Then I'd ask you for an overview of how the Obama administration sees that challenge in regard to US foreign policy (hard and soft power) and our role in the UN and other international bodies.

I might also weave into first part of the conversation a reference to the focus of your years at Brookings on weak and failing states, the implications of global poverty, and transnational threats to security - which are, of course, more relevant than ever.

Then we'd open it up to a few questions from the audience.

Obviously, you're more than welcome to use our interaction to deliver any messages you feel are important, but I wanted to check if you are ok with the approach I'm suggesting to get the session going.

We'll limit it to about 25 minutes, after which the evening will close with a musical moment provided by Denys Graves.

P6/b(6)

If this reaches you today (Monday), and you want to discuss any part of it, I'll be on my cell phone, [REDACTED] and I'll of course be available through my office, [REDACTED] starting tomorrow.

Thanks again for agreeing to do this - and looking forward to Thursday evening.

Strobe