

EVENT BRIEF: DINNER WITH ROBERT O'BRIEN AND AMBASSADOR GEORGE GLASS

DETAILS

Nature of event	Dinner with Robert O'Brien
Date	Thursday 29 February 2024
Time	18:30
Venue	Firewood, 306 Main St, Park City, UT
Host	Robert O'Brien, Chair, American Global Strategies
Dress code	Business attire
Purpose of engagement	Engage with Mr O'Brien and other former senior Trump Administration officials
Media / social media	Nil
Event lead	s 22(1)(a)(ii)

ATTENDEES

Total number of attendees	HOM Robert O'Brien, former National Security Advisor to President Trump Ambassador George Glass and Mary Glass
VIPS	See bios below


BIOGRAPHIES



Robert O'Brien

Robert O'Brien is co-founder and chairman of American Global Strategies. He was President Trump's National Security Advisor from 2019-2021. O'Brien focused on defence and industrial base issues at the NSC – he is a long-time advocate of sea power and a 355 ship Navy and visited leading shipyards during his tenure.

Prior to serving as NSA, O'Brien was the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs with the rank of Ambassador. He previously served as Co-Chairman of the Department of State Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan under both

<p>Chairman, American Global Strategies</p>	<p>Secretaries of State Rice and Clinton. He also served as Senior Legal Officer for the UN Security Council commission that decided claims against Iraq arising out of the first Gulf War.</p> <p>He currently serves as co-chair with Secretary Pompeo of The Nixon Seminar on Conservative Realism and National Security. He is also a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy and a Carnegie Distinguished Fellow at the Columbia University Institute of Global Politics.</p> <p>O'Brien serves as the Chairman of the Global Taiwan Institute (GTI) Task Force on US-Taiwan Relations and is a co-chair of the CSIS Commission on Hostage Taking and Wrongful Detention. He holds a J.D. from the U.C. Berkeley School of Law and received his B.A. degree in political science from UCLA.</p>
 <p>George Glass Former US Ambassador to Portugal</p>	<p>George Glass is a real estate developer and former US Ambassador to Portugal under President Trump, serving in Lisbon from 2017-2021. Glass was a major donor to the Trump campaign.</p> <p>A devout Catholic, he moved to Utah after returning from Portugal with his wife Mary. They have three sons, all married, and six grandchildren.</p> <p>During his tenure as Ambassador, he was vocal in criticising Chinese investments in strategic sectors in Portugal and was also outspoken about the role of Huawei in future 5G networks in the country.</p> <p>Glass was formerly President of Pacific Crest Securities and owned a firm in Oregon that purchased apartment complexes and rental homes. He holds a BS degree from the University of Oregon, where he later served as Alumni President.</p>

SUMMARY OF RECENT COMMENTARY BY O'BRIEN

O'Brien addressed Utah lawmakers at the State Capitol on 12 February 2024, making the case for the passage of several national security related bills which he said could help address China's "relentless" pursuit for influence. He underlined the need to address Confucius Institutes at American universities; China's purchase of land near US military bases; its influence on elections; and intellectual property theft.

O'Brien said policies at the state level will help steer how lawmakers interact with foreign governments. **"They're not looking for good relationships, they're looking for influence...so our legislators need to be a little more sophisticated in understanding that the Chinese have views and goals in these relationships that are very different than ours."**

The draft bills include prohibiting the state from purchasing any technology made by a "restricted foreign entity"; barring certain foreign companies from owning land in Utah; regulation of companies purchasing land adjacent to military bases for wind power operations; and creating buffer zones around military facilities.

Article on his remarks: [Former Trump official weighs in on Utah lawmakers' efforts to strengthen national security - Utah News Dispatch](#)

Recent commentary on X:

- Responding to Elbridge Colby's post that the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) is being used by the US Navy faster than it can be replaced, O'Brien posted "Important and well thought out thread. I have been making this point since the Houthis began their provocations on Iran's behalf. **Every time we fire a TLAM at an empty hut or tin warehouse, China wins!**" 13 February 2024
- In response to the IDF rescue of two hostages in Gaza, he posted "As I have said from 10/7, **US Tier One Operators should be on the ground rescuing US hostages & bringing justice to those that killed AMCITS in Israel.** That is what would have happened just three short years ago. The IDF in an impressive operation showed it can be done." 12 February 2024
- "I'm 100% behind military aid to Israel, Taiwan & Ukraine. **The Free World has been attacked & we're the arsenal of democracy.** I'm 100% against the "permanently open border" bill. It is worse than a half measure & endangers US national security." 5 February 2024

Remarks at the Reagan Defence Forum on 2 December 2023 – he said he was "thrilled about AUKUS". Relevant excerpt below of his comments on China/Taiwan and the US submarine fleet:

- "...If Xi wants to really squeeze Taiwan he does it with a naval blockade. And so where is the US navy there and is political leadership here going to escort tankers passed Chinese war ships to Taipei and offload oil for them?...It would be very hard for...some presidents to say we're going

to break (a Chinese) blockade (against Taiwan) and we're going to send US navy ships. And if you do that you are risking war... Where is our submarine fleet? That is what gives us a huge quantitative and qualitative advantage against the Chinese PLA navy. **Well today about half our submarine fleet, and nice to see Prime Minister Rudd is out there, and I am thrilled about AUKUS, I think it is going to be a great deal. But we can't even get the Australians a Virginia Class boat anytime soon. And half our LA class, Virginia class boats are tied up waiting for maintenance....**Peace through strength works, it's not just a cliché and American weakness is provocative...If we don't get our submarine fleet maintained and deployed, if we don't start expediting our hypersonic missile deployments ...we can talk all we want about democracy and the rules-based international order, and by the way, I have never known anyone who wants to fight and die for the rules-based international order, they might want to fight and die for America and for the free world but until the free world gets its act together and shows strength we are not going to deter adversaries and we are going to end up in a blockade or massive cyberattack or some grey zone tactics with the assassinations of Taiwanese leaders in Taipei and we're going to have a hard time responding to it. We need to get our act together".

- Asked what the biggest challenge is for a President after November, O'Brien described the "vile antisemitism" on college campuses and said for those protestors in the US on student visas, "their pass to America just got pulled", in his view. Threats of genocide "from the river to the sea" can't be acceptable. He then said the **biggest challenge to the US (to our kids and grandkids and our liberty and way of life) is China and "we have got to be focussed on that like a laser"**. The daily threat from terrorism and to US troops deployed overseas is from Iran. Putin trying to restore an imperial Russia is also a huge threat as well.