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**MILOSEVIC AT THE HEART OF CURRENT AND FUTURE PROBLEMS,
SAYS UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON EXPERT ON BOSNIA**

Serb forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army are battling in Kosovo while Slobodan Milosevic denigrates the peace talks that could provide a diplomatic solution to the fighting. NATO waits in the wings, ready to launch air raids in case Richard Holbrooke can't convince the Yugoslav president to capitulate.

Milosevic is not only the key to the current peace plan, he's the major obstacle to lasting stability in the region, says a University of Dayton expert on Bosnia.

"There are a lot of difficulties relating to a NATO military intervention in Kosovo, but we cannot forget who the source of the current and future problems in the region is — Milosevic," said R. Bruce Hitchner, director of the Center for International Programs at the University of Dayton and chief architect of ongoing analysis and recommendations concerning the Dayton Peace Accords. "Sooner or later, we have to face up to the question of how many new and unstable states he's going to create out of the former Yugoslavia."

Each year on the anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, Hitchner has convened a two-day meeting of high-level international diplomats, journalists, business leaders and educators to analyze the performance of the peace agreement. The November symposium examines a particular aspect each year. The 1996 symposium, which was opened by an address by Holbrooke, included bringing war criminals to justice and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 1997 symposium looked at challenges facing Bosnia, including partitioning and Brcko.

NATO's role was discussed in 1998, when participants included Holbrooke and Haris Silajdic, prime minister of Bosnia.

For media interviews, contact **Bruce Hitchner** at (937) 229-3652 or via e-mail at hitchner@trinity.udayton.edu. A full profile of Hitchner can be seen at <http://www.udayton.edu/news/nr/102398.html> or requested by calling (937) 229-3241.