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The University of Dayton

News Release

POLICYMAKERS, DIPLOMATS AND EXPERTS GATHER AT UD FOR SYMPOSIUM ON EUROPEAN RELATIONS

DAYTON, Ohio, February 12, 1988--Major European and American policymakers will visit the University of Dayton campus at the end of February to meet with students and community representatives to review the changing political and economic climate in Europe since World War II. Their visit is part of a two-day symposium entitled "Europe East and West."

Alfred J. Cahen, Secretary-General of the London-based Western European Union, will deliver the symposium's keynote address, "Changing European Attitudes Toward the United States and the Soviet Union: A View From Europe," at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26 in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. His speech is free and open to the public.

"Most Americans don't realize that European attitudes toward the U.S. have become more negative in recent years," said Margaret P. Karns, director of UD's Center for International Studies. "The attitude toward the Soviet Union has switched to a more positive one, partly because of the influence of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the great PR man in the Kremlin."

Sponsored by the University of Dayton Scholars Program and the Center for International Studies, in cooperation with the Dayton Council on World Affairs, the symposium has attracted experts from NATO, the Delegation of the European Communities, the European Parliament and the Council on Foreign Relations to Dayton. They will examine the mood in Europe four decades after the formation of NATO, the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine in an all-day session on Saturday, Feb. 27.

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"The University of Dayton has seldom brought together such an array of experience, expertise and talent for so concentrated a period on a single topic," said Patrick F. Palermo, director of the University Honors Program.

Registration, limited to 125 participants, is now closed. However, the keynote address and several related events are open to public participation during the week preceding the symposium. William H. Luers, a former U.S. ambassador to Czechoslovakia, will discuss "Gorbachev and Glasnost: A New Era in East-West Relations?" in an open forum in room 310 of the Kennedy Union at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Luers, currently the president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, spent nearly 30 years in numerous diplomatic posts and has strong ties to Dayton: he's a graduate of Oakwood High School.

Luers' wife, Wendy, a human rights activist, free-lance journalist and former director of special projects for Amnesty International, USA, will conduct an open forum on human rights on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the School of Law.

For UD's Center for International Studies and the Dayton Council on World Affairs, the symposium marks their first joint endeavor since a fire on Dec. 22 destroyed their offices in St. Joseph Hall.

For more information on "Europe East and West," call 229-3514.