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The University of Dayton

'CRY FREEDOM,' DONALD WOODS TO OPEN
UD DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

News Release

DAYTON, Ohio, September 15, 1988--South African journalist Donald Woods, whose attacks on apartheid drew fire from the South African government and led to his arrest and eventual escape from the country, will open the University of Dayton's 1988-89 Distinguished Speakers Series.

Woods will speak on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom. As a community service, the event is free and open to the public. "Cry Freedom," the 1987 film based on two books by Woods, will be shown for UD students and staff on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. in Boll Theatre in Kennedy Union on campus. The film will also be shown at Centerville Cinemas on Wednesday morning for area high school students.

Woods is the author of "Biko" and "Asking for Trouble," upon which "Cry Freedom" is based. Directed by Sir Richard Attenborough, the film stars Kevin Kline as Woods and Denzel Washington as Steven Biko, a young black leader in South Africa who was killed by state police. As a newspaper editor, Woods was outspoken in his criticism of the racial policy of apartheid. When he published the details of Biko's death, he was arrested and subjected by authorities to strict banning orders. He was forbidden to write or speak publicly, and his family suffered personal attacks. Three months after his arrest, he and his family escaped to England.

He now serves as director of the Lincoln Trust, a foundation that supplies information about apartheid to the international media. Additionally, Woods also serves as special advisor to the 49-nation Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

Woods' lecture, "Cry Freedom: Apartheid and the Tragedy of South Africa," is co-sponsored by the Dayton Council on World Affairs. For further information, call 229-4114 or 229-2319.