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BEYOND THE ACCORDS: DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR NATO IN THE BALKANS

DAYTON, Ohio — It’s been three years since the Dayton Peace Accords called a halt to the war in Bosnia. But the violence continues, with Kosovo on the front line and threats to the security of Macedonia, Albania and perhaps Montenegro waiting in the wings.

International experts on the region will gather at the University of Dayton Nov. 20-22, the third anniversary of the signing of the peace accords, to recommend a strategic concept for NATO in the Balkans in “The Dayton Peace Accords and Beyond,” a workshop organized by the University of Dayton Center for International Programs.

The workshop is funded by a $50,000 grant from the Packard Humanities Institute.

“NATO is going to be involved in the Balkans for quite a long time to come and needs to develop a policy that is more than an ad hoc response to a crisis,” says R. Bruce Hitchner, director of the Center for International Programs at UD. “One of the difficulties in the past, since 1991, is that the international community responds slowly and even after the fact in instances of genocide and other calamities. I think a thoughtful report that elucidates some of the options of NATO will help contribute to a long-term strategy. It will give them something to work with and think about.”

Attendance at one workshop session will be free and open to the public. A roundtable session will be held from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus. Seating is limited. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m.

Topics will include the origins of current security issues in the Balkans, potential regional security issues in the next decade, NATO’s performance in the implementation of the accords and resolving the Kosovo crisis, and recommendations for a long-term NATO strategy for the Balkans. NATO is charged with developing a new strategic concept for the region by April 1999.

Participating in the roundtable will be Robert Gelbard, special representative of the president and the secretary of state for implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords. Gelbard -over-
is the U.S. envoy responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing U.S. policy and programs in the region.

Government officials who will take part include ambassadors to the United States, including those from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Hungary and Slovenia. Representatives from the United Kingdom, Austria and Sweden will participate, as will Robert Barry of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A full roster of international experts will be on hand for the workshop, slated to continue through Sunday, Nov. 22. Chris Bennett, director of the International Crisis Group in Sarajevo; James Hooper, executive director of the Balkan Action Council; Suada Kapic, director of FAMA International in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Jane Sharp, director of the Center for Defense Studies at Kings College London are among those participating in the workshop.

Additional experts will include Mark Ensalaco, director of international studies at UD; Benjamin Schemmer, editor of Strategic Review for the U.S. Strategic Institute; Susan Woodward, senior fellow of the Brookings Institute; and Mark Ellis, executive director of the Central and East European law initiative for the American Bar Association.

A workshop report with specific recommendations will be published in February 1999.

Additional events during the weekend include:

- A U.S. State Department town meeting with Gelbard at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in the Hope Hotel at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The session is open to the public but registration is required. For registration materials, call (937) 257-6593.

- An invitation-only black-tie dinner to honor Richard C. Holbrooke, chief architect of the Dayton Peace Accords, on Friday, Nov. 20, on campus. The University of Dayton will award an honorary degree to Holbrooke for his accomplishments.

- An invitation-only reception and dinner to dedicate the painting “Nocturne,” acquired by UD’s Center for International Programs for the first Dayton Peace Accords symposium in 1996, at 6 p.m. at the Dayton Art Institute.

For more information on the roundtable, call UD’s Center for International Programs at (937) 229-3514.