NEW NATIONAL AGENDA TO BE DEFINED AT DUKE CONFERENCE

DURHAM, N.C. -- When the next president of the United States takes office in January, he will have a list of solutions to some of the nation's most pressing problems, courtesy of a group of former government leaders, educators and religious figures meeting April 10-12 at Duke University.

A select group of 30 will take part in "Defining and Implementing a New National Agenda," sponsored by Duke's Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs. Coordinator Richard Stubbing says the purpose of the conference is to reach a consensus on the country's needs, to outline ways to meet those needs, and to get the findings out to a broad audience, including the candidates running for president.

"Our country has a lot of strengths but it's also got a lot of weaknesses that are hurting our competitiveness as a nation," Stubbing said. "Those problems will make it difficult for us to grow as a nation the next couple of decades unless someone comes up with an overall plan, which seems to be lacking."

During the two-day conference, participants will deal with fiscal policy and economic growth, entitlements, health care, technology and productivity, education and training, urban crime and drug abuse. After reviewing background information, they'll be divided into three groups to come up with a plan for the newly-elected president.

"That's when the action really begins, when the charge for each group will be to come up with answers to the questions of the conference: What needs to be done in terms of the nation, and equally important, how can these changes be implemented?," Stubbing said.

The conference will conclude Sunday, April 12 at 1 p.m. at Duke's Fuqua School of Business with a session open to the public. At that time, the small groups will share their recommendations and together go over areas of agreement and disagreement. When the conference is over, Stubbing will compile a summary he hopes will attract the attention of the national media and the presidential campaigns.

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"The results of this conference will be made available to the candidates as they try and think through how they're going to steer the country over the next four years. The plan we come up with will be available for implementation in January of 1993."

The diverse group of attendees (see attached list) includes Rep. Dennis Eckart, D-Ohio; former congressman James Courter of New Jersey; Murray Weidenbaum, former chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisors; and Rudy Penner, former director of the Congressional Budget Office. State and local government representatives include former South Carolina governor Dick Riley and former Houston mayor Kathy Whitmire. William Friday, President Emeritus of the University of North Carolina System, and Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America are among the educators attending the conference, along with experts in the fields of religion, business, public service and the media.

The list of attendees was hand-picked by Stubbing, a professor at Duke's Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs who spent 20 years in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget working on defense and intelligence programs, and Neil Boothby, director of the institute's Leadership Program.

"We were looking for a group of talented, dedicated people with a broad range of experience. We also were intent on making the conference truly bipartisan," Stubbing said.

"Ultimately the key to getting away from our standard approach and putting this nation on a new course will be a bipartisan consensus of Republicans and Democrats. Getting both sides to agree on the steps to be taken is the only way we can make this happen."

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CONFERENCE ON DEFINING AND IMPLEMENTING A NEW NATIONAL AGENDA
Duke University, April 10-12, 1992

Status Report on Attendees (as of March 30, 1992)

Acceptances:
* Dick Riley, former governor of South Carolina
* Garrey Carruthers, former governor of New Mexico
* James Courter, former congressman from New Jersey
* Dennis Eckart, retiring congressman from New Jersey
* Kathy Whitmire, former mayor of Houston
* William Friday, president emeritus, University of North Carolina
* Michael Timpane, president, Teachers College at Columbia University
* Murray Weidenbaum, former chairman, Council of Economic Advisors
* Rudy Penner, former director, Congressional Budget Office
* Lisbeth Schorr, Harvard University
* Olivia Golden, Children's Defense Fund
* John Ahearne, executive director, Sigma Xi
* Richard Andrews, director, Environmental Policy Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
* Ismar Schorsch, chancellor, Jewish Theological Seminary of America
* Dennis Campbell, dean, Duke University Divinity School
* Joseph Malone, Bishop of Youngstown, Ohio
* Steve Thomas, chief operating officer, Westminster Corp.
* Robert Maricich, president, American of Martinsville
* James Vincent, chairman, Biogen Inc.
* Clark Havighurst, Duke University School of Law
* Valeria Lee, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
* Jack Bond, former deputy mayor, Washington, D.C., former Durham County manager
* Harry S. Havens, assistant comptroller general, General Accounting Office
* C. Randall Henning, Institute for International Economics
* Carol Cox, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget
* Marjery Kraus, president, APCO Associates
* Fritz Mayer, Duke University Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs
* Tom Weeks, city councilman, Seattle
* Neil Howe, author, "On Borrowed Time"
* David Gergen, U.S. News & World Report

Schedule Permitting:
* Clifford Alexander, former Secretary of the Army
* Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H.
* Gregg Easterbrook, contributing editor, The Atlantic and Newsweek