

Lecture on "Environment, Population and Consumption: Time of Breakdown or Breakthrough?" held at UCSD's IR/PS Robinson Building Auditorium May 5

April 27, 1998

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: Renowned environmentalist Norman Myers to deliver public lecture at UCSD on "Environment, Population and Consumption: Time of Breakdown, or Breakthrough?"

DATE/TIME: May 5, 1998, 7 p.m.

LOCATION: IR/PS Robinson Building Auditorium, University of California, San Diego

LOGISTICS: The media is invited to attend this Regents lecture. Interviews with Myers may be arranged in advance.

BACKGROUND: Norman Myers is a noted British consultant and one of the planet's leading environmental analysts. His arguments for a major national and international effort to halt accelerating environmental deterioration have been influenced corporations, foundations, and government leaders throughout the world.

Though his career began quietly as a District Officer and high school teacher in Kenya, Myers gained the public eye with his 1979 book *The Sinking Ark*, which suggested that species extinction was running rampant. He continues to argue that species extinctions are among the most damaging ecological impacts caused by people, perhaps worse than pollution or ozone depletion, since species extinctions are irreversible.

Myers is perhaps most widely known as the author and editor of the best-selling *The Gaia Futures Series: the Atlas of Planet Management*, the *State of the Ark Atlas*, the *Atlas of Future Worlds*, and the *Atlas of First Peoples*.

Among his more recent publications is the book, *Ultimate Security: The Environmental Basis of Political Stability*, in which he argues that the planet's environmental problems are interdependent and represent the greatest threat to world security. As a solution, he says we must redirect resources particularly in the United States from military expenditure to foreign aid.

Since 1972, Myers has worked with various international organizations dealing with environmental issues. These include UN agencies, the U.S. Department of State, European Commission, World Bank, World Resources Institute, NASA, the OECD, and other agencies in about 100 countries. He is a prolific writer and his publications include more than 240 papers, 13 books and edited volumes, and 160 book reviews.

Myers' significant contributions to public environmental awareness have been widely recognized through an assortment of awards and honors including: the Volvo and UNEP Sasakawa Environmental Prizes, a Pew Fellowship in Conservation and Environment, and Gold Medals from the World Wildlife Fund, the New York Zoological Society, and the Zoological Society of San Diego (the San Diego Zoo).

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