

UN Ambassador Richardson to address UCSD's Eleanor Roosevelt College graduates

June 10, 1997

Media Contact: Pat JaCoby, (619) 534-7404 or pjacoby@ucsd.edu

Bill Richardson, United States ambassador to the United Nations, will deliver an address on UN reform to graduates of Eleanor Roosevelt College at the University of California, San Diego, at 2:30 p.m. June 14.

Richardson's long-scheduled commencement appearance in the main arena of the RIMAC complex will be one of seven separate college ceremonies to be held following President Bill Clinton's keynote address at 9 a.m. June 14 to all members of UCSD's class of '97.

The ambassador's office said he will speak on UN reform and the importance of internationalism rather than isolationism. He is scheduled to arrive in San Diego on June 13.

Richardson, named as UN Ambassador by President Clinton on Dec. 13, 1996, serves as a member of the President's Cabinet and also is a member of the National Security Council. He is the first Hispanic to serve in a foreign policy cabinet level position.

This past week Richardson was in the new Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), where his shuttle diplomacy helped avert a looming crisis and lead to a relatively peaceful transfer of power from Zairian President Mobutu to Alliance leader Kabila.

As a diplomatic trouble shooter he has worked to free hostages and prisoners in several countries, including Burma, Cuba, Iraq, North Korea and the Sudan.

Prior to becoming the U.S. Representative to the UN, Richardson served New Mexico's 3rd congressional district--one of the largest and most ethnically diverse in the country--and was reelected seven times. As a member of the U.S. Congress, Richardson held one of the highest ranking posts in the House Democratic Leadership, serving as chief deputy whip.

Ambassador Richardson received a B.A. (1970) from Tufts University and an M.A. (1971) from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He is fluent in Spanish, with good speaking and reading abilities in French. He currently resides in New York with his wife, Barbara.

(June 10, 1997)