

Defense budget cuts and economic conversion to be discussed at UCSD Forum

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Media Contact: Dolores Davies, (619) 534-3120 Julia Ingram, (619) 534-6429

DEFENSE BUDGET CUTS, ECONOMIC CONVERSION TO BE DISCUSSED BY NATIONAL SECURITY EXPERTS AT UCSD FORUM

The University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) will hold a community forum on May 3 on "Cutting the Defense Budget:

How Deep? How Fast?" The forum, which is being co-sponsored by UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) will be held at 7:30 p.m. at IR/PS's Robinson Building Complex Auditorium. The panel will feature former assistant secretaries of defense Lawrence Korb and Frank

Gaffney, Jr., and Lloyd Dumas, a leading advocate of economic conversion, who will discuss the impact of proposed budget cuts and the opportunities for economic conversion.

IGCC, a University of California research institute headquartered at UCSD, has been asked by 34 members of the California Congressional Delegation to create and coordinate a California Economic Transition Project. The purpose of the project is to develop an economic transition program that will cushion the impact of major defense spending reductions on the California economy.

"Defense Secretary Cheney's proposed \$180 billion cut in projected military expenses reflects domestic budgetary constraints and fundamental changes in the international environment. This shift in national spending priorities could have a profound impact on California's economy," said John Ruggie, director of IGCC. "The forum will enhance public understanding of this complex and controversial issue, and provide an overview of the economic transition project that IGCC has been asked to coordinate on behalf of the State of California and its residents.

Lawrence Korb, director of the Brookings Center for Public Policy Education and senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies program, served as assistant secretary of defense for manpower and budgetary matters in the Reagan administration. Frank Gaffney, Jr., founder and director of the Center for Security Policy, served as former assistant secretary of defense for international security policy and former deputy assistant secretary of defense for nuclear forces and arms control policy in the Reagan administration. Lloyd Dumas is a professor at the University of Texas whose research and writing have focused on the economics of military spending. One of the nation's leading advocates of economic conversion, he is the author of "The Promise of Economic Conversion" (1989), and the editor and co-author of "Reversing Economic Decay: The Political Economy of Arms Reduction."

Following the presentations, a panel of retired, high-level military officers will discuss the impact of the proposed cuts on national security.

The forum is the first of two public discussions planned at UCSD on defense budget cuts and their potential impact on the local, state and national economy. On May 7, at 7:30 p.m., a UCSD Policy Forum on "Adjusting

to the End of the Cold War: Economic Implications for the State and the Nation," will be held at the Price Center Theater. Both events are free and open to the public.

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