

Gordon MacDonald appointed director of Environmental Policy Studies for UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

February 26, 1991

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

GORDON MACDONALD APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STUDIES FOR UC INSTITUTE ON GLOBAL CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

Gordon J.F. MacDonald, former vice president and chief scientist of the MITRE Corporation, has been appointed director of Environmental Policy Studies for the University of California's Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC), headquartered at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) campus. MacDonald has also been appointed to the faculty of the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) at UCSD.

"Gordon MacDonald is one of the world's leading authorities on global climate change. He will be responsible for developing and implementing a new program of environmental studies for IGCC, an important component of IGCC's agenda of changing international security concerns in the post-Cold War era," said John Ruggie, director of IGCC and professor at IR/PS. "MacDonald's environmental policy program will enable IGCC to make a significant contribution to resolving the common enemy environmental problems that face all nations."

In his lengthy career, MacDonald has served Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Eisenhower in dealing with environmental, space and defense issues. In 1970, he was appointed by President Nixon to lead the negotiating team on the U.S. - U.S.S.R. environmental agreement signed by both heads of state in 1972. He served Presidents Kennedy and Eisenhower in helping to formulate the long term program of exploration of the moon and planets for the new National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He was later appointed by President Johnson to the President's Science Advisory Committee, where his work focused on oceanography, naval warfare and strategic policies. MacDonald was also appointed by Governor Reagan to establish and chair the first committee to advise the state legislature on science and technology in California.

MacDonald has also served on the first U.S. Council on Environmental Quality, the Defense Science Board, and the Department of State's Advisory Committee on Science and Foreign Affairs. He is currently serving on the Department of State's Advisory Committee on Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and is also continuing his work as senior advisor for the country's national security agencies on acid rain, climate change and new methods of signal processing.

Previously, MacDonald held teaching positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College and the University of California Los Angeles and Santa Barbara campuses. He has taught a wide variety of courses in scientific areas including physics, geophysics, environmental studies and government. His research, which has covered environmental sciences, upper atmospheric physics, weather modification, nonlinear statistics, geology and paleontology, has led to the publication of more than 150 papers and monographs. His prize-winning 1959 book, "The Rotation of the Earth," coauthored with scientist Walter Munk of UCSD's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, remains the premier work in its field.

(February 26, 1991)