

Hostage negotiator Terry Waite to lecture; sponsored by University Events

January 26, 1987

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HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR TERRY WAITE, M.B.E., TO LECTURE AT UCSD MANDEVILLE CENTER AUDITORIUM ON FEB. 28

Terry Waite, M.B.E., hostage negotiator and special envoy for the Archbishop of Canterbury, will lecture at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Mandeville Center Auditorium, at the University of California, San Diego.

Waite, who has gained international prominence for his successful dealings with Lebanese terrorists for the release of the Rev. Benjamin Weir and Father Lawrence Jenco from their Beirut captors, will talk about the crisis of hostage-taking in the Middle East. Waite also speaks on the church's part in international affairs, a crisis in communication in the developed and developing world, and what we don't know about South Africa.

Waite's exceptional track record of successful negotiation extends to many different countries and crises, including the release of four British men held by Colonel Qadhafi of Libya, and--his first negotiation--the release of a group of Anglican missionaries in Iran. Despite Waite's efforts to downplay his unusual diplomatic missions, he has become a focus of hope where other efforts have failed.

The son of a policeman from northwestern England, Waite, 47, served in the British army before developing an affinity for Third World church work. Since 1980, as the special envoy for Archbishop of Canterbury Robert A.K. Runcie, he has made more than 15 missions to South Africa on behalf of the Church of England and its partners in the Anglican Communion. His prior experience in Africa was gained as consultant and adviser to the Archbishop of Uganda, and as coordinator for the Southern Sudan-Relief Project. Waite had also worked as an international consultant with the Roman Catholic Church, specializing in development of medical and educational work throughout Africa, Asia and South America.

Married, with four children, Waite said he was considering giving up his job because of the dangers and pressures involved. His current round of negotiations in Lebanon is extremely sensitive, with the capture of a French journalist occurring only hours after Waite's meeting with terrorists. In a recent BBC interview, Waite said, "I will not do this for the rest of my life, as I have already said. You have to know when the time comes to withdraw gracefully and recognize that it's time for somebody else to take up the lead that perhaps I have given."

Terry Waite is brought to San Diego by the University Events Office at UCSD. Tickets for the lecture are available from the UCSD Box Office and from TicketMaster outlets. General admission is \$10; seniors, \$8; students, \$6. For information call the UCSD Box Office at 534-4559.

(January 26, 1987)