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PRESS RELEASE

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Multiparty Delegation of Ivorian Leaders to Visit South Africa

Washington DC, August 28, 2001 – A 17-member multiparty delegation of senior leaders from Côte d'Ivoire's main political parties arrives in South Africa today for a week long study mission to examine the achievements made by South African leaders and institutions in promoting reconciliation and consolidating democracy. This mission is organized by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), which has conducted programs to support Côte d'Ivoire's democratization process since 1992. This program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Ivorian delegation includes M. Sylvain Miaka Oureto, Secretary General of the *Front Populaire Ivoirien* (FPI), Mr. Bernard Ehui-Koutoua, Former Minister and National Secretary of the *Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire* (PDCI), and Dr. Alassane Dramane Ouattara, Former Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire and President of the *Rassemblement des Républicains* (RDR). Five smaller parties are also represented: the *Parti Ivoirien des Travailleurs* (PIT), the *Union pour la Démocratie et la Paix en Côte d'Ivoire* (UDP-CI), the *Union des Sociaux Démocrates* (USD), the *Parti Africain pour la Renaissance Ivoirienne* (PARI), and the *Parti pour le Progrès et le Socialisme* (PPS).

The political transition of the last decade and ongoing reconciliation process in South Africa provide an interesting example for leaders in other democratic transitions as they seek to develop responsive, dynamic and representative political parties and an inclusive, pluralist political system. Through meetings with South African political party leaders, elected officials, members of the judiciary and civil society representatives, the delegation will seek to: (1) examine the negotiated transition out of the apartheid state system into a multi-ethnic, multi-racial liberal democracy; (2) analyze the political processes that enabled South Africa to sustain this democratic transition, including the search for peace and justice and the reconciliation process; (3) examine the institutions of the new South Africa as they have contributed to democratic consolidation.

NDI anticipates that observations from this mission will be useful as Ivorians prepare for the upcoming Forum on National Reconciliation, and as they seek to work toward respect for human rights and democratic governance.

NDI is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and to promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

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