



News Release

National Democratic Institute
For International Affairs

1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 605
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 328-3136
Telex 5106015068 NDIIA

THURSDAY JULY 14, 1988

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
MARTIN EDWIN ANDERSEN
(404) 880-3600

300 FOREIGN POLITICAL LEADERS TO ATTEND DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 14, 1988 -- The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is host to more than 300 political leaders from 100 countries at the 1988 Democratic Party Convention in Atlanta.

At the request of Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Kirk, former Vice President Walter Mondale, chairman of NDI, invited government and party leaders from democratic countries and leaders of political organizations that advocate democratic change in non-democratic nations. The U.S. Information Agency and several U.S.-based foundations are sponsoring additional foreign delegations.

International visitors attending the convention include former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez; Northern Ireland parliamentary leader John Hume; Salvadoran presidential candidate Fidel Chavez Mena; British Social and Liberal Democrats leaders David Steel and Shirley Williams; Guatemalan First Lady Raquel Cerezo, and Japanese Diet member Kazuo Tanikawa.

"During the convention, NDI hopes to share the proud legacy of the party and our agenda for the next administration," Mondale said. "We also want to share our characteristic brand of pluralistic politics.

"And as a party with a historical commitment to an international vision, we also want to learn from our guests' experiences -- to join with them in a dialogue to deepen our shared commitment to democratic values and practices."

NDI's week-long convention program for international guests begins on Friday, July 15, with a day-and-a-half seminar on the U.S. electoral process and foreign policy issues. The forum starts off with three panel discussions at the Carter Presidential Center.

Panelists include pollster Peter Hart; Jackson for President Convention Director Ron Brown; Dukakis senior foreign policy advisor Madeleine K. Albright; political analyst Norman Ornstein; former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and Kirk O'Donnell, president of the Center for National Policy.

On Saturday morning a seminar will showcase the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and will focus on the role of human rights and democratization in foreign policy decision-making.

Panelists include New York Rep. Stephen Solarz; Dukakis platform representative Michael Barnes, and former Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Patricia Derian.

During convention week, NDI will host the International Visitors Lounge at the Georgia World Congress Center, adjacent to the Omni convention hall.

Briefings by members of Congress and convention officials will be offered to the visitors each morning. Extensive coverage of each evening's convention schedule will be available, with simultaneous translation of the activities in Spanish and French.

On Thursday, July 21, NDI will also sponsor a one-day program for 100 members of the Washington, DC diplomatic corps.

NDI, a non-profit organization, was established in 1983 to help strengthen democratic institutions and pluralistic values in new and emerging democracies.

"The National Democratic Institute is honored to host such a large and prestigious group of political leaders," said NDI President J. Brian Atwood.

"We hope that each of our guests will bring home a keener appreciation of our party, our candidate and our democratic system."

###