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PRESS RELEASE

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MADELEINE ALBRIGHT TO ASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

WASHINGTON DC --The Board of Directors of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) announced today that United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would become chairman of the Board of the Institute when she leaves office. Albright had served as vice chair of the democracy promotion organization when it was founded in 1983.

“We will be fortunate to benefit from Madeleine Albright’s leadership as NDI responds to new opportunities and challenges in assisting courageous democrats throughout the world who promote peaceful political change in nondemocratic countries and work to consolidate pluralist institutions in new democracies,” said NDI President Kenneth Wollack.

As chairman of NDI, Albright succeeds Paul Kirk, co-chairman of the Commission on Presidential Debates, chairman of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and former chairman of the Democratic Party.

“Madeleine Albright’s life experience and public service have personified the mission of this Institute,” said Kirk. “As a diplomat, scholar and activist, she has been a forceful and consistent voice for the worldwide democracy movement.”

“Paul Kirk has led NDI for nearly eight years, providing guidance and support for all of our democratic development programs,” Wollack said. “His leadership has been central to the growth of the Institute.” Kirk will continue to remain active with NDI as a member of the Institute’s Senior Advisory Committee.

Kirk followed former Vice President Walter Mondale as NDI chairman. Former Democratic Party chairman Charles Manatt also chaired the Institute.

Kirk noted that US democracy promotion efforts enjoy bipartisan support by “reflecting the moral values and serving the strategic interests of the United States.” “A more democratic world is a more peaceful, stable and prosperous place,” he said.

Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy, the US Agency for International Development and private contributions, NDI is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

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