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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--What domestic and global factors are juggled by presidents, foreign ministers, and others in Third World capitals like Monrovia, Liberia, when it comes to crafting their nation's foreign policy?

That's the subject of a new book by an Illinois Wesleyan University political scientist, probing the delicate political, economic, and social chemistry that goes in to shaping the foreign policies of small and developing nations.

"Dependency and the Foreign Policy of a Small Power: The Liberian Case" was written by George Klay Kieh, Jr., an assistant professor of political science and director of IWU's International Studies Program. It will be published this summer by the San Francisco-based Mellen Research University Press.

The book is unique, according to Kieh, because it breaks tradition in foreign-policy studies in two ways:

- It concentrates on the foreign-policy concerns of resource-scarce Third World nations--zeroing in on Liberia as a case study--in a field typically dominated by analyses focusing on the United States, Western Europe, the former Soviet Union, Japan, and other industrialized countries.

- It takes an in-depth look at economics, demographics, population trends, military affairs, education, religion, the mass media, and a host of other domestic factors that shape foreign policy rather than taking a one-dimensional approach, exclusively focusing on power politics.

"To exclude developing nations from the study of foreign policy is to exclude a majority of the world's population and countries from the field," Kieh explained. "Foreign-policy theories developed from studies of the United States and other industrialized nations are too narrow to be generally applied. Foreign policy studies concern much more than just industrialized countries."

Kieh added, "Foreign policy is not an exclusively political act. Foreign policy is made in a domestic environment and is influenced by an assortment of factors, for example, the strength of a nation's economy, its location, and even its health-care system. Foreign policy also concerns more than industrialized countries, especially in the post-Cold War world. To gain a real understanding of foreign policy, we must look beyond the narrow confines of Europe, the United

States, and the former Soviet Union; we must understand other countries beyond the industrialized world."

Jan Carew, a professor emeritus at Northwestern University and a visiting professor of international studies at IWU, characterizes Kieh's book as "a trail-blazing work", noting that "implicit in the scenario which the author describes with a commendable intellectual honesty and profound and widely ranging insights, is the suggestion that his Liberian model is one that replicates itself all across Africa and the Third World."

Kieh's goals in writing his first book, which took four years to complete, were to discuss foreign-policy considerations in general, the specifics of Liberia's foreign policy in particular as a case study, and to do so in a way that the general public--not just the scholarly community--could gain a better understanding of the intricacies of foreign-policy making.

"I wanted to write a book that gives readers a feel for Africa and a small country like Liberia that doesn't have the foreign-policy resources of the United States, Japan, or Britain. The foreign-policy choices these countries can make are constrained."

"Dependency and the Foreign Policy of a Small Power: The Liberian Case" is divided into eight chapters, dealing with topics including: the problems of economic dependency; the elements of national power such as economics, ideology, the military, and population; institutions and processes including the executive and legislative branches of government, political parties, and personal diplomacy; conditioning processes such as culture, religion, education, and the mass media; relations with the western bloc; relations with the socialist world; and the role of the United Nations in shaping Liberia's foreign policy.

Kieh was born in Harbel, Liberia, to a working class family and grew up on a plantation operated by Firestone, the rubber and tire company. He is a founding member of the Liberian People's Party and is chairman of its branch in the Americas. As a student in Liberia, he was president of the University of Liberia Student Union and was twice imprisoned on treason charges by the Tolbert government (1979) and the Doe military junta (1984).

Kieh joined the Illinois Wesleyan University faculty in 1990. Previously, he has had teaching posts at Northwestern University, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, University of Illinois at Chicago, North Park College, St. Xavier College, Memphis State University, and the University of Liberia.

Kieh received a bachelor of arts degree (honors) in political science from the University of Liberia and master of arts and doctoral degrees from Northwestern University.

"Dependency and the Foreign Policy of a Small Power: The Liberian Case" will be published in mid-July to early August by the Mellen Research University Press, a publisher of scholarly books.