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Food & Diplomacy

State Dept. Official to Discuss U.S. Foreign Policy at IWU April 14

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Just weeks after the U.S. troop pullout from embattled Somalia, ending a food aid mission that killed more than a dozen U.S. soldiers, State Department food policy aide Edward J. Marcott will discuss foreign aid issues at Illinois Wesleyan University, April 14.

Marcott's 7 p.m. address, which is free and open to the public, will take place in the Main Lounge of IWU's Memorial Student Center. His presentation will pinpoint the key role food plays in U.S. foreign aid programs. Following his speech, Marcott will take questions from the audience.

Events in Bosnia, Somalia, and other trouble spots point to increasing demand for U.S. assistance. While many hard-pressed nations are looking to the Clinton administration to continue U.S. relief missions, especially in countries battling hunger, domestic issues--like the federal budget deficit, health-care, and welfare reform--are squeezing U.S. foreign aid dollars.

Born in Massachusetts in 1945, Marcott earned a bachelor of science degree from Georgetown University and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University.

Marcott's foreign policy expertise largely has focused on food policy and international economics. Among the State Department posts he has held are:

- Deputy Director of the Office of East-West Trade in the economic and business bureau. He supervised agricultural trade issues affecting U.S. trade with Southeast Asia and the Pacific rim.
- First Secretary of Economics at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. Marcott dealt with trade and energy issues.
- First Secretary of Economics at the U.S. Embassy in London. Marcott was in charge of trade and export control issues.
- Office of European Regional Economic Affairs, Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs. Marcott worked on European agriculture trade issues.

- U.S. Mission to the United Nations, New York, N.Y. Marcott served on a special political committee at the U.N., representing the United States.

- Office of Southern European Affairs, Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs. While stationed in Turkey, Marcott was responsible for economics and military base rights issues.

- Second Secretary for Economics and Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, Finland. Marcott served as supervisor of commercial affairs.

- Second Secretary for Political and Consular Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Marcott was the supervisor of consular affairs.

Food aid remains a major issue, especially for nations fighting civil wars or coping with other political turmoil. In civil war ravaged Somalia, for example, most of the 1.3 million refugees and displaced persons remain dependent on foreign assistance. This year, Armenia, a former Soviet republic, faced a second consecutive harsh winter, cut off from adequate food supplies. Winter also threatened hundreds of thousands in two other former Soviet republics, Georgia and Tajikistan. More than one million Kurds, a persecuted minority in Iraq, also continue to suffer from malnourishment. In these and other areas, hostilities often impede or prevent delivery of assistance, making aid missions more difficult.

Marcott's appearance at Illinois Wesleyan is sponsored by the International Studies Program and the Diplomatic Studies Team.

Editor's Note: Edward J. Marcott will be available to meet with the news media at 6:30 p.m., April 14 in the Cartwright Room, Memorial Student Center. The Cartwright Room is on the second floor of Memorial Student Center, adjacent to the Main Lounge, where Marcott will speak. The Memorial Student Center is at 104 E. University St., Bloomington. For additional assistance, call: Bob Aaron, IWU Public Relations, 309/556-3181.