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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Young Political Leaders from N. Ireland to Visit Little Rock, Memphis area and N.W. Ark.;
Delegates to Engage in Dialogue with Local Political Leaders, Study American Political System**

WASHINGTON – From June 30 to July 4, 2007, seven young political leaders from Northern Ireland will visit Little Rock, the Memphis area, Bentonville and Fayetteville as part of a twelve day political exchange program organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL). Composed of delegates from across the political spectrum in Northern Ireland, the delegation is the first ACYPL delegation from the region to visit the United States since the reconstitution of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the restoration of local governance in May 2007. Delegates kicked off their program with meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. and will also visit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During their stay in the region they will be hosted by Arkansas State Representative Denny Sumpter, D-West Memphis.

ACYPL first began exchanging delegations with Northern Ireland in 1999, a year after the ratification of the Good Friday Agreement. With this exchange program, ACYPL furthers its forty plus year mission of increasing cross-cultural understanding, bringing together young political leaders from places that have experienced bitter conflict and opening lines of communication between young U.S. political leaders and their counterparts in countries around the world.

Who: Young political leaders from across the political spectrum in Northern Ireland, including:

- **Ms. Judith E. Cochrane** (Alliance Party) - Member, Castlereagh Borough Council
- **Mr. Mark Cosgrove** (Ulster Unionist Party) - Director of Ireland, Redhead Holdings Ltd
- **Mr. Richard W. Cushnie** (Non-Affiliated) - First Secretary, British Embassy Dublin
- **Ms. Michelle McIlveen, MLA** (Democratic Unionist Party) - Member for Strangford, Northern Ireland Assembly
- **Mr. Martin Reilly** (Social Democratic & Labour Party) - Member, Derry City Council
- **Mr. Desmond M. Ward** (Sinn Féin) - Member, Banbridge District Council
- **Mr. Hugh Widdis** (Non-Affiliated) - Legal Advisor, Northern Ireland Assembly

What: Program highlights include:

- Meetings with Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe, D-Ark., U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., a 2002 ACYPL Congressional Gala honoree; 2004 Presidential candidate and former NATO Supreme Allied Commander General Wesley Clark, USA (Ret.), and Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, D-Ark.
- Touring the Arkansas State Capitol, the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum, the global headquarters of Wal-Mart, Inc., the National Civil Rights Museum, Elvis Presley's Graceland, the University of Arkansas, Little Rock Central High School & Museum and the Clinton House Museum.

When: June 30 - July 1, 2007 (Memphis / West Memphis)
July 1-3, 2007 (Little Rock)
July 2, 2007 (Bentonville / Fayetteville)

Why: The purpose of this program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels.
- Give the delegates a new perspective on American culture.
- Allow the delegates to engage in dialogue on international issues and develop professional relationships with their American counterparts.

About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)

Recognized by the U.S. Congress as a pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other, the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a bi-partisan, not-for-profit international exchange organization based in Washington, DC. Since its founding in 1966, ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni. Former ACYPL participants include 38 sitting members of the U.S. Congress, 6 sitting U.S. governors and ambassadors, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit

<http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELEGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-857-0999 or mgarretson@acypl.org.

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