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MEDIA ADVISORY

**Young S. African Leaders Visit Denver and Colorado Springs;
Delegates to Engage in Dialogue with Local Political Leaders, Study American Political System**

WASHINGTON – From October 15-19, 2007, a delegation of four young, prominent South African political leaders will visit Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado, as part of a two week political exchange program organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) and funded by the U.S. Department of State and El Pomar Foundation. The delegates kicked off their program with meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. and will arrive in Colorado on the heels of stops in Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina. While in Colorado, they will be hosted by Fellows from El Pomar Foundation's highly competitive El Pomar Fellowship post-undergraduate leadership training program. ACYPL began exchanging delegations with South Africa in 1993 as the country was preparing for its first multi-racial elections.

Who: Members of this ACYPL delegation – the 7th to visit from South Africa since the end of Apartheid - include:

- **Ms. Tsakane Mahlaule** (African National Congress Party) - Deputy Director, Change Management, Gauteng Provincial Government
- **Mr. A.M. Shimi Phate** (African National Congress Party) - Member, West Rand District Municipal Council, and Chief Party Whip
- **Ms. Jacqueline Reilly** (Democratic Alliance) - Member, Ekurhuleni District Council, and Chief Party Whip
- **Mr. John H. Steenhuisen** (Democratic Alliance) - Member, eThekweni Council Executive Committee, and Caucus Leader

What: Program highlights will include:

- Meetings in Denver with Colorado Attorney General John W. Suthers, Colorado Supreme Court Justice Michael L. Bender, Colorado State Representative Michael Garcia, a 2004 ACYPL delegate to Russia; former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and the Young Americans Center for Financial Education.
- Meetings in Colorado Springs with former U.S. Representative to the United Nations General Assembly William J. Hybl, an ACYPL alumnus and former president of ACYPL's Board of Trustees who currently serves as Chairman & CEO of El Pomar Foundation; Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera; Richard Soudriette, President Emeritus of IFES and a 1989 ACYPL delegate to Brazil; the Forum for Civic Advancement, the Peak Vista Community Health Centers and the Southern Colorado AIDS Project.
- Tours of the Colorado State Capitol Dome, the Colorado State Supreme Court, the National Renewable Energy Lab in Denver and the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs

When: October 15-16, 2007 (Denver)
October 17-19, 2007 (Colorado Springs)

Why: The purpose of this exchange program is to:

- Expose the delegates to the American political system at the national, state and local levels;
- Give them a new perspective on American culture; and
- Allow them to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge 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>.

About El Pomar Foundation

El Pomar Foundation, based in Colorado Springs, is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in the Rocky Mountain West, with assets totaling \$560 million. El Pomar contributes approximately \$25 million annually through grants and community stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities, and civic and community initiatives. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937. For more information, please visit <http://www.elpomar.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 202-349-4060 x1201 OR mgarretson@acypl.org.

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