Chris Patten To Lecture at The Yale Center for International and Area Studies

January 17, 2006. New Haven, CT  Chris Patten, former Governor General of Hong Kong and Commissioner of the European Union in charge of External Relations, will speak at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1, in the Luce Hall auditorium, 34 Hillhouse Avenue. The title of his speech is "Cousins and Strangers: America, Britain, and Europe." It is sponsored by the European Studies Council and the European Union Studies Program at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies.

Chris Patten was educated at Balliol College, Oxford University. After completing his education, he worked for the Conservative Party, serving as the director of the Conservative Research Department from 1974-79. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1979 and served there until 1992. In 1986 he was appointed Minister for Overseas Development and in 1990 he was appointed to the Cabinet as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and became chairman of the Conservative Party.

In 1992, he was appointed Governor General of Hong Kong. He remained in that position until Britain turned Hong Kong over to the People's Republic of China in June, 1997. During his five years as Governor General, Patten played a central role in expanding the rights of Hong Kong residents to participate in elections to the Legislative Council.

In 1998 he was appointed chair of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland which was established as part of the "Good Friday" agreement. The Commission's 1999 report proposed a large number of recommendations, including the renaming of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

In 1999, Patten was appointed as one of Britain's two members of the Commission of the European Union and was assigned responsibility for the EU's External Relations. He served in that capacity until November, 2004. When he completed his term, he was raised to the Peerage and entered the House of Lords as Lord Patten of Barnes.

Lord Patten now serves as the Chancellor for the University of Newcastle and the University of Oxford. He has written several books, most notably East and West: The Last Governor of Hong Kong on Power, Freedom and the Future (1999), Not Quite the Diplomat: Home Truths About World Affairs (2005), and Cousins and Strangers: America, Britain, and Europe in a New Century (2006),

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