

September 24, 2001: Commission Elects Dean Michael K. Young Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2001 Contact:

Lawrence J. Goodrich, Communications Director, (202) 523-3240, ext. 27

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom today announced the election of Dean Michael K. Young of George Washington University Law School as Chairman for the term to end in May 2002. Commissioner Young served as the Commission's Vice Chairman from June 1999 to June 2000. He joined the George Washington University Law School as Dean in 1998 after serving as the Fuyo Professor of Japanese Law and Legal Institutions at the School of Law of Columbia University. He also served as Director of the Center for Japanese Legal Studies, the Center for Korean Legal Studies, and the Project on Religion, Rights, and Religious Freedom at Columbia University. During the administration of President George Bush, he served as Ambassador for Trade and Environmental Affairs, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, and Deputy Legal Adviser to the U.S. Department of State. Commissioner Young is now serving his second term on the Commission. Commissioners Felice Gaer, director of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights of the American Jewish Committee, and Charles R. Stith, former U.S. ambassador to Tanzania and director of the African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston University, were elected to serve with Chairman Young on an executive committee. Also serving as Commissioners are Firuz Kazemzadeh, senior advisor, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States; Richard Land, president and CEO of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Southern Baptist Convention; Bishop William F. Murphy, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y.; Leila Nadya Sadat, professor of law, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Mo.; Nina Shea, director of the Center for Religious Freedom, Freedom House; and The Hon. Shirin R. Tahir-Kheli, director of the South Asia Program of the Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. All Commissioners' terms expire May 14, 2003.

Michael K. Young, Chair

- Felice D. Gaer Firuz Kazemzadeh Richard D. Land Bishop William Francis Murphy Leila Nadya Sadat Nina Shea The Hon. Charles R. Stith The Hon. Shirin Tahir-Kheli Steven T. McFarland, Executive Director