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The Corporate Council on Africa to Host Major African Oil and Gas Forum

Asst. Secretary Kansteiner to address Houston event

Washington -- The Corporate Council on Africa's (CCA) "West Africa Oil & Gas Forum" in Houston, Texas November 19-20 will focus on oil and gas production and opportunities for the U.S. petroleum industry in West Africa.

Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Walter Kansteiner will open the Forum, which will take place at the Westin Oaks Hotel. West African petroleum ministers, senior level executives from major U.S. petroleum companies and other U.S. government personnel administering African policy will also participate. The conference is expected to draw hundreds of government and national petroleum company representatives from Angola, Cameroon, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria and Sao Tome & Principe, as well as U.S. oil and gas executives.

Interest in West African oil and gas as a major source of energy for the United States, a CCA press release notes, continues to grow as national planners look to decrease dependence on Middle Eastern supplies. The region is vital to businesses in the U.S. petroleum industry as recent exploration has led to new discoveries and increased production at a fast pace. Currently, the region supplies almost 15 percent of U.S. energy needs and imports are expected to rise to nearly 25 percent of U.S. domestic consumption by 2005.

The "West Africa Oil & Gas Forum," according to the CCA, will provide U.S. companies accurate guidance on the political and economic situations in the region as well as direction on related U.S. government policy. Plenary sessions will include: "Energy, Infrastructure and Economic Development: A Public-Private Partnership for Economic Growth," "African Oil and U.S. Priorities," and "Risk Management in African Oil Investments." Workshops on individual countries will address petroleum and energy priorities; upcoming procurement and bloc biddings; and the regulatory environment.

The Corporate Council on Africa, established in 1992, is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization of nearly 160 American companies dedicated to strengthening trade and investment ties between the United States and Africa. CCA members represent nearly 85 percent of total U.S. private sector investment in Africa.

[Registration for the Forum is \$500 for members of the CCA and \$950 for non-members. For more information contact Christopher Alion at 202-835-1115 or by email at calion@africacncl.org. Online registration for the Forum can be found on CCA's website www.africacncl.org.]

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