



AFRICA PROGRAM

Center for Strategic and International Studies ■ Washington, D.C.

“Somalia’s Crisis: Challenges to Peace” Speaker Biographies

James C. Swan

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs

Term of Appointment: 12/18/2006 to present

James Swan has been Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs since December 2006. In this capacity, he is responsible for the Bureau's offices for Central Africa, East Africa and Regional Security Affairs. Immediately prior to this assignment, Mr. Swan was the Director of Analysis for Africa in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (2005-2006).

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Mr. Swan has devoted most of his professional life to countries facing complex political transitions, notably in Africa. His overseas assignments have included service as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (2001-2004) and in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo (1998-2001). Earlier in his career he was the Somalia Watcher in Nairobi, Kenya (1994-1996) and Chief of the Political Section in Yaounde, Cameroon (1992-1994). He has also served in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and Managua, Nicaragua. In Washington, he was the Zaire (later Democratic Republic of the Congo) Desk Officer (1996-1998).

Mr. Swan holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a Master of Arts in International Relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a Master's degree in Security Studies from the National War College, where he was a 2005 Distinguished Graduate.

Leslie Lefkow

Special Initiatives Researcher for Human Rights Watch’s Africa Division

Leslie Lefkow is an expert on Sudan, Cote d’Ivoire, and Ethiopia. Since joining Human Rights Watch in January 2003, Ms. Lefkow has focused on abuses in armed conflicts and other issues requiring rapid response in sub-Saharan Africa, investigating and documenting abuses in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. A graduate of Columbia Law School and Bryn Mawr College, Ms. Lefkow previously worked with Medecins sans Frontieres from 1997 – 2002 as a humanitarian affairs advisor in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone.

Geoff Loane

Head of Regional Delegation of the United States and Canada for the International Committee of the Red Cross

Geoff Loane is the current Head of Regional Delegation of the United States and Canada for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In this capacity he oversees ICRC visits to the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and is responsible for day to day working relationships with the United States Government.

Mr. Loane has also worked in the Balkans, Middle East and spent more than a decade in the Horn of Africa during the major conflicts there. These include Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, and Rwanda. He has also served as the Head of the Emergency Relief Unit of the ICRC in Geneva.

Mr. Loane has published books on the unintended consequences of humanitarian assistance and has conducted extensive field research in assistance operations. He was a senior scholar for the Conflict Prevention Network in Berlin where he prepared a number of research papers for the European Commission. He has organized and managed an emergency roster of personnel on behalf of the Irish government.

Mr. Loane has raised his three children in a variety of international settings. He is a graduate of the University of Dublin, Trinity College.

Ken Menkhaus

Davidson College, North Carolina

Ken Menkhaus is professor of political science at Davidson College in North Carolina, specializing in African politics, state failure, and post-conflict reconstruction. In 1993-94, he served as special political advisor in the UN Operation in Somalia, and in 1994-95 was visiting civilian professor at the US Army Peacekeeping Institute. He is a frequent consultant to the US government, UN, and non-governmental organizations on matters ranging from post-conflict assistance to security analysis. In 2002 Menkhaus was recipient of a US Institute of Peace grant to study protracted conflict in the Horn of Africa. Prior to joining Davidson College in 1991, he taught for two years at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.