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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Experts on Middle East To Give 'United for Freedom' Presentation at Cal Poly April 8**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Four experts on the Middle East will give their perspectives about the current crisis there at a "United 4 Freedom" panel discussion from 7 to 9 p.m. April 8 in the Cal Poly Theatre.

Titled "What You Need to Know About the Middle East Conflict but Won't Hear in Class," the event will include information on the region's history, human rights, democracy, diversity and moderate Islam.

The discussion is the first in a series of six presentations designed to provide a broad perspective on the issues affecting the road to peace in the Mideast.

The panelists for the April 8 discussion are Cookie Lommel, founder and executive director of Operation Unity; Mark Paredes, press attaché for the Los Angeles Consulate General of Israel; Roberta Pollack Seid, a journalist and historian; and Tashbih Sayyed, an international expert on terrorism.

The remaining four presentations, all from 7 to 9 p.m. in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center on campus, will be:

**April 29:** James Goode, professor of history at Grand Valley State in Michigan, "The United States and Iran: What Have We Learned in 50 Years?"

**May 8:** Jonathan Adelman, professor at the Graduate School of International Studies at the University of Denver, "Arab-Israeli Conflict: Where Now?"

**May 13:** Hussein Ibish, communications director for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, "The Effects of Media Coverage on U.S.

Policy in the Middle East."

**May 19:** David Meir-Levi, host of the weekly radio show "Mid-East Media Watch" and director of the Israel Peace Initiative, "From Oslo to Jenin: From Peace Process to Infitada II."

**Tuesday, May 27:** M. Nazif Shahrani, chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of Indiana, "Current Affairs in Afghanistan."

The public is invited to the free talks, which are sponsored by Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts and its history and journalism departments.

For more information on the series, call the College of Liberal Arts at 756-2706.

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