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Office of Public Affairs and Public Relations Western Kentucky University

Robert G. Cochran, Dean of Public Affairs Ed Given, Assistant to the Dean

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bowling Green, Ky., Feb. 15...A former director of the United States Information Agency will be the fourth widely acclaimed lecturer this year in the unique University Lecture Series at Western Kentucky University.

Carl T. Rowan, currently a nationally syndicated columnist, is slated to appear Wednesday, Feb. 22, in Van Meter Auditorium at 3 p.m. (CST). His presentation will be entitled "The United States and Revolution".

Other lecturers who have appeared on the Western podium in the past few months include Rodes-Helm Lecture, Pearl 5. Buck and University Lecture Series speaker Jesse Stuart and Dr. Murray Levin.

In addition to his University Lecture presentation, Rowan will address a chapel assembly at 10:20 a.m. in Van Meter Auditorium.

Rowan is an intriguing combination of columnist, diplomat, author, and scholar. His journalistic ability reflects his background as a graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he obtained a master's degree in journalism, and as a reporter for the Minneapolis TRIBUNE.

While on the TRIBUNE staff, Rowan became the only newsman in America to receive the prized Sigma Delta Chi Medallion for three consecutive years. He covered many of the key events of the 1950s, such as the Hungarian-Suez crises in the United Nations, the school desegregation difficulties at Little Rock, and the famed U-2 incident.

Rowan interrupted his journalistic career when he was named Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs in 1961. This appointment was followed by being selected to serve as Ambassador to Finland in 1963 and as Director of the USIA in 1964, a position from which he recently resigned.

In addition to his column, Rowan is the author of four books: <u>South Of</u> <u>Freedom</u>, named to the American Library Association's annual list of best books in 1953; The <u>Pitiful And The Proud</u>, named to the ALA's listing in 1956; <u>Go South To Sorrow</u>, an analysis of the race problem in America; and <u>Wait Till Next Year</u>, a biography of Jackie Robinson.

Rowan holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Oberlin College, where he is a member of the board of trustees. He has received honorary doctorates from Oberlin College, Washburn University, Temple University, and Morgan State College.

He was born August 11, 1925, in Ravenscroft, Tenn. Rowan graduated from Bernard High School in 1942 and attended Tennessee State University before enlisting in the armed services where he eventually became one of the first 15 Negroes to attain officer status in the Navy.

Rowan is married to the former Vivien Murphy, Buffalo, N.Y. and they have three children.