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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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May 20, 1994

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL TO VISIT UM

MISSOULA --

Mark Johnson, U.S. ambassador to Senegal and Montana's first U.S. ambassador since former Sen. Mike Mansfield served in Japan, will visit the University of Montana campus Thursday, May 26.

Johnson, who grew up in Great Falls, will lead a discussion, "The Case of Senegal: Current Economic Development and the Political Climate in Africa," from 3-5 p.m. in the Mansfield Center Conference Room. The discussion is open to the public.

The ambassador's visit also includes meetings with UM President George Dennison, UM faculty who are interested in African studies and Francophone African languages, and students interested in exchange programs to Senegal.

He will attend a noon luncheon with Mayor Dan Kemmis, acting Director of the Montana Committee for the Humanities Gerald Fetz, Missoula Cultural Exchange Director Barb Koostra, Dennison and other UM representatives to discuss opportunities for intellectual and cultural exchange between UM's Missoula campus and Senegal.

Johnson, a member of the Senior Foreign Service, began his 24-year diplomatic career as a commercial officer in Kuwait. He has since held numerous posts in the Foreign Service involving the Middle East, Asia and Africa, including assignments in Indonesia, Kenya, and Egypt. Following Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Johnson helped reopen the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait,

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serving as the embassy's deputy chief of mission.

In 1992, Johnson was awarded the President's Meritorious Service Award. He has also received the State Department's Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards.

Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in 1968 from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a master's degree in international economics from George Washington University in 1970.

Johnson's visit is sponsored by UM's President's Office, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Women's Studies Program and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

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Contacts: Women's Studies Program Administrative Assistant Colleen Hunter, 243-2584. Ambassador Mark Johnson may be reached at his mother's Great Falls home, beginning Tuesday evening, May 24, through Wednesday morning, May 25, 761-8254.

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