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Fort Worth Sister Cities International to host Peace Conference

(FORT WORTH) July 8, 2002 – Fort Worth Mayor, Kenneth Barr, along with Fort Worth Sister Cities International, an internationally recognized and award-winning municipal peace organization, will host the **People to People for Peace Conference**, a powerful leadership dialogue to link the leadership of our youth, cities, diplomats and corporate officials to the quest for global peace. The conference will take place July 21-25 in Fort Worth, Texas. This conference will serve as a model for cities around the world seeking to create a culture of peace. Texas Christian University Chancellor Michael Ferrari is the chairman for the event.

"We are happy to be hosting such a unique event - the exchange of ideas among countries, cities and citizens is key in advancing the peace process," said Mae Johnson, executive director of Fort Worth Sister Cities International. "We are expecting a great program."

Distinguished speakers will include Oscar Arias Sanchez, 1987 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former president of Costa Rica; Norman Drummond, founder and chairman of Columba 1400, a community and international leadership center in Scotland; and Gregory R. Smith, a 13-year-old senior at Ralph-Macon College and founder of

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People to People for Peace Conference – 2

International Youth Advocates. Smith was also recently nominated for the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize. Juan Carlos Navarro, mayor of Panama City, Panama and founder of the National Association for the Conservation of Nature in Panama, will also speak.

Participating countries include Japan, Mexico, Indonesia, Budapest, Slovenia, Northern Ireland, Costa Rica, Scotland, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Panama and the United States.

This groundbreaking initiative will have the active participation of national and international diplomatic and municipal entities, Sister Cities International, Tarrant County mayors and their Sister Cities programs, as well as representation from the many regional organizations committed to peace.

The dialogue format will include plenary sessions with above-mentioned keynote speakers, facilitated focus group discussions and workshops leading to a town hall meeting where the youth and diplomatic leaders respond to the cities' call for citizen involvement in creating a culture of peace in our cities. Press briefings and individual interviews with the international press corps will follow the town hall meeting.