



**Press Advisory
For Immediate Release**

**National Security Advisor General James L. Jones, Jr.
To Receive Grand Prix de la Francophonie Award**

Washington, DC, March 1, 2010 – National Security Advisor General James L. Jones, Jr. (Ret.) has been selected to receive the 2010 Grand Prix de la Francophonie award. Gary Doer, Canada’s Ambassador to the United States, will present the honor in a ceremony on Monday evening, March 1, at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel on the occasion of the Opening Reception of the Mois de la Francophonie. Raymond Alcide Joseph, Haiti’s Ambassador, will also award a special prize to Jane L. Ross, President of the French Heritage Language Program, in recognition of their work to promote the French language in the United States.

The “Grand Prix de la Francophonie” award is given each year to an American public figure in recognition of their work toward promoting and developing the values of the Francophone world. With an extensive record of distinguished public service, General Jones has served in the armed forces, as a diplomat, and currently, as National Security Advisor to President Barack Obama. An avid Francophone, General Jones spent his early years in Paris, and also studied at the American School of Paris. As the chief of the U.S. European Command, from 2003-2006, General Jones led the Allied Command Operations (ACO) — comprising NATO’s military forces in Europe — from the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, in Mons, Belgium.

In 2009, the Grand Prix was given to Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, for her efforts and those of the state of Louisiana to preserve the use of the French language and the cultural heritage it represents.

Organized by more than 35 embassies, governments and associations, the Francophonie Festival of Washington offers a month-long series of concerts, shows, films, and events that celebrate the rich cultural traditions and diversity of the French-speaking world. The goal of this non-profit festival is to bring cultural activities to the Washington area that educate the public while nurturing cross-cultural understanding.

This year, the organizing members of the Francophonie are placing a special emphasis upon Haiti, in wake of the disastrous January earthquake. A portion of all Francophonie event proceeds will be donated to charity groups dedicated to Haitian disaster relief.

Media contacts:

Christine Vest
Quebec Government Office
Tel: 202-659-8990
Fax: 202-659-5654
christine.vest@mri.gouv.qc.ca

Marie-Hélène Zavala
La Maison Française c/o Embassy of France
Tel: 202-944-6006
Fax: 202-944-6167
Marie-Helene.Zavala@ambafrance-us.org

For More Information, Please Visit: www.francophoniedc.org