

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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JACK MATLOCK, JR. DISCUSSES MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S REFORMS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER *Presented in conjunction with the 2008 Liberty Medal*

Philadelphia, PA (August 14, 2008) – In a special companion program to the awarding of the 2008 Liberty Medal to former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the National Constitution Center will present "Can Perestroika Survive?," a public program with former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union **Jack Matlock, Jr.**, that examines Gorbachev's reforms, the direction in which Russia was headed when he stepped down from office in 1991, and how that compares to the Russia of today. Matlock will discuss topics such as restrictions placed on the press, limits to established religion in the Soviet Union, and the leadership and vision of Vladimir Putin. The program will take place on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Jack Matlock, Jr. served as U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1987 to 1991, and is author of *Reagan and Gorbachev* and *Autopsy on an Empire*. He was an eyewitness to Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership, the deepening and critically important relationship between Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, and the end of the Cold War. In addition, Matlock has taught diplomacy at Princeton University, Columbia University, and Hamilton College.

The National Constitution Center's 2008 Liberty Medal will be awarded to former Soviet leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mikhail Gorbachev for his courageous role in ending the dangerous, decades-long Cold War and in giving hope and freedom to

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ADD ONE/PERESTROIKA PROGRAM

millions who lived behind the Iron Curtain. The public Liberty Medal ceremony will take place on Thursday, September 18, 2008, at the National Constitution Center in Historic Philadelphia, and will set the stage for international commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 2009.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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