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Former Zambian President to Speak at FIU

MIAMI, FL. (October 10, 2000) Former president of Zambia, Kenneth David Kaunda will deliver the keynote address during the second annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture at Florida International University, as part of the African New World Studies Distinguished Africana Scholars Lecture Series.

“Dr. Kenneth Kaunda is part of the group of African leaders who helped liberate the continent from European colonial rule,” says Acting Director of the African New World Studies Program, Clarence Taylor. “The African New World Studies program is honored that such an important figure is the keynote speaker for the Eric E. William Memorial lecture.”

Kaunda’s lecture on “Orphans of Africa: The Ignored Casualties of AIDS” will take place on Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at University Park, which is located at 112 Avenue and Southwest Eight Street.

In his twenties, Kaunda became involved in **government** and in 1965 was elected president of Zambia, a position he held for **26** years. Since his retirement from politics in 1991, Kaunda has dedicated himself to the fight against AIDS, a disease that is ravaging the African continent. With this purpose in mind Kaunda established the Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation, which is dedicated to helping children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic.

The memorial lecture is named after Trinidad and Tobago’s first Prime Minister, Eric Williams. Williams is best known for his work, *Capitalism and Slavery*, first

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Kaunda/ page 2

published in 1944 and cited in 1997 in the New York Times Book Review as continuing to be on the “cutting edge of slave trade research in academic circles.”

A portion of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection at the University of the West Indies is on display until October 17 at the Green Library in FIU’s University Park. Inaugurated in 1998 by General Colin Powell, it has been named to UNESCO’s prestigious ‘Memory of the World’ Register.

Admission to the lecture is free and open to the public. For more information please call the African-New World Studies program at 305-919-5521 or Williams’ daughter, Erica Williams Connell at 305-271-7246.

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