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Contacts:

Lisa Todorovich, Asst. Dir., Communications
434.243.4096; ltodorovich@virginia.edu

Kim Curtis, Communications Assistant
434.243.2985; kcurtis@virginia.edu

Melvyn P. Leffler's *For the Soul of Mankind* Awarded 2008 George Louis Beer Prize

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., Nov. 10, 2008 – *For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War*, by Melvyn P. Leffler of the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs, has won the 2008 George Louis Beer Prize, in recognition of outstanding historical writing in European international history since 1895, by the American Historical Association.

In the book, Leffler, the Edward R. Stettinius Professor of History at U.Va., discusses four significant Cold War episodes in which American and Soviet leaders considered changing, avoiding, or ending hostilities, and explains why each failed. He then illustrates how Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Mikhail Gorbachev finally removed themselves from the policies and perspectives that had imprisoned their predecessors and successfully reshaped Soviet-American relations after decades of confrontation. In a recent review historian Jeremi Suri of the University of Wisconsin–Madison wrote: "*For the Soul of Mankind* is the best book published to date on the dynamics of the Soviet-American diplomatic relationship during the Cold War."

Leffler is a Faculty Associate in the Miller Center's Governing America in a Global Era (GAGE) program, which examines the intersection and historical roots of contemporary American foreign policy and domestic politics. He served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at U.Va. from 1997 to 2001, and, in 1993, he won the Bancroft Prize for *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War* (Stanford University Press, 1992). Leffler recently co-edited *To Lead the World: American Strategy After the Bush Doctrine* (Oxford University Press, 2008) with GAGE Faculty Associate Jeffrey Legro.

The American Historical Association, a non-profit membership organization founded for the promotion of historical studies, the collection and preservation of historical documents and artifacts, and the dissemination of historical

research, will hold an award presentation ceremony and reception at its annual meeting in New York City in January 2009.

For the Soul of Mankind: The United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War

By Melvyn P. Leffler

Hill and Wang, 2007; \$35.00

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson's public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives, and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

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