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Colby says defense budget can be cut

By **JIM McDONNELL**
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The United States could afford to cut defense spending in half and use that \$150 billion a year "peace dividend" for many endeavors more worthwhile than building weapons systems that can never be used, former CIA director William Colby said Tuesday night.

Ten percent could be used to double our foreign aid budget, he said.

The rest could go toward better education, a better environment and dealing with other domestic difficulties such as the drug problem, Colby said during a speech at LSU.

Colby, who directed the CIA from 1973 to 1976, said there is a place in this rapidly changing world for relatively small, but high-quality military forces backed up by reserves.

Drug lords and terrorists who hold American hostages should "live in terror" of American special forces units showing up in their back yards, he said.

But large-scale military power has been rendered useless in the relationship between superpowers because they are unable to exercise it against each other, he said, adding the

world's economic giants should focus their efforts on working together toward economic betterment.

Colby compared present-day realities to the late 1940s, when the United States financed the rebuilding of war-ravaged Europe.

The United States' best approach to the challenges and opportunities of the 1990s, he said, would be to join with other major economic powers in an effort to build up the underdeveloped nations of the Third World as well as those emerging from Communism.

The situation in the Soviet Union is now obviously "very delicate," Colby said.

He compared the central government in Moscow and the Lithuanian government in Vilnius to "two scorpions in a bottle, both looking at each other, somewhat afraid of each other, but both acutely aware that the destruction of one would probably mean the destruction of the other," he said.

"Some screaming incident could occur, some flamboyant incident that could throw the whole thing up in a mess," he said.

"But the Soviet Union is not going to suppress the Lithuanians. It's going to

let them go. It's talking about the modalities of letting them go."

The Soviet Union, he predicted, will work its way through the current Lithuanian crisis as well as other crises bound to materialize as other ethnic minorities follow the Lithuanian lead and demand independence.

"It's not hard to hold power," he said. "It's not even that hard to grab power. What's very difficult is to release power because you immediately set up competing appetites...you immediately divide the country into competing blocs and groups."

Other countries will take more time to progress.

"The North Koreans have been frozen in time for years," he said. "We've got to wait until the great leader Kim Il Sung goes to his just or unjust reward. At that point I think somebody will shoot his son and they'll open the borders."

The topic of Colby's address, "National Security in a Changing World: U.S. Policy Options in the '90s," was part of a series sponsored by the Bienville House Center for Peace and Justice, Common Cause, the Uniting Campus Ministry, Peace Links, the YWCA and the League of Women Voters.