



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 1, 2004

MEDIA CONTACT: Arian Collins
619-236-5848

**Pulitzer Prize-Winning Writer Max Frankel to Discuss
New Book, "High Noon in the Cold War"**
Part of the Great American Writers Series of the Library and City Club

SAN DIEGO – Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Max Frankel will discuss his new book, "High Noon in the Cold War: Kennedy, Khrushchev and the Cuban Missile Crisis," on Oct. 21 in San Diego as part of the continuing Great American Writers Series.

"High Noon in the Cold War" captures the Cuban Missile Crisis in a new light, from inside the hearts and minds of the famous men who provoked and, in the nick of time, resolved the confrontation. Using his personal memories of covering the conflict, and gathering evidence from recent records and new scholarship and testimony, Frankel corrects widely held misconceptions about the game of "nuclear chicken" played by John Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev in October 1962, when Soviet missiles were secretly planted in Cuba and aimed at the United States.

The book portrays an embattled young American president not jaunty and callow as widely believed, but increasingly calm and statesman like and a Russian ruler who was not only a "wily old peasant" but an insecure belligerent desperate to achieve credibility. Here, too, are forgotten heroes like John McCone, the conservative Republican CIA head whose intuition made him a crucial figure in White House debates. In detailing the disastrous miscalculations of the two superpowers (the U.S. thought the Soviets would never deploy missiles to Cuba; the Soviets thought the U.S. would have to acquiesce) and how Kennedy and Khrushchev beat back hotheads in their own councils, this fascinating book re-creates the whole story of the scariest encounter of the Cold War, as told by a master reporter.

Born in 1930 in Gera, Germany, Frankel was raised in New York City and he received his B.A. and M.A. from Columbia University. He wrote for *The New York Times* for 50 years and received the Pulitzer Prize for international coverage in 1973. He served as executive editor of *The New York Times* from 1986-94.

The Great American Writers Series is presented by the City of San Diego Public Library and the City Club of San Diego. The Oct. 21 event will be a noon luncheon in the Harborside Room at the Holiday Inn Bayside, 4875 North Harbor Drive. The cost is \$25 for City Club members, and \$35 for non-members, and lunch is included. To make a reservation, call the City Club at 619-687-3580 or email cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net.

###

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future