

## TV Show Reveals Rift Over Globalization Non-Commercial Satellite Channel Link TV Brings The Argument Home

(Airs Monday Feb 12, Sunday Feb 18 and Wednesday Feb 21, 5:00 PM PST on DIRECTV channel 375; The DISH Network channel 9410)

San Rafael, CA February 8, 2001 – Globalization: The Great Divide takes viewers to the epicenter of a worldwide dispute in a groundbreaking interactive program that uses "video bridge" technology in a failed attempt to find common ground between two different visions of globalization and its effects.

The world's most powerful people gather every January in the small Swiss skiing town of Davos; this year, the more enlightened Davos stalwarts agreed to talk to a parallel gathering of anti-globalization protestors in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Sparks flew, and it was all captured by Link TV, which will air the highlights of the discussion starting next week. While accusations and lectures fly, the viewer is left with the sure understanding that the future of globalization is not yet decided and that real dangers lurk everywhere.

### Main Participants:

#### In Davos:

Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Program

George Soros, International financier and Chairman of the Open Society Foundations.

Bjorn Edlund, V.P. for Corporate Communications for Asea Brown Boveri (ABB).

John Ruggie, Advisor to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

#### In Porto Alegre:

Rafael Alegria, Director of the International Movement of Landless Peasants.

Walden Bello, Executive Director of Focus on the Global South.

Hebe de Bonafini, President of the Argentinian Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

Njoki Njehu, Director of Fifty Years is Enough.

After the recent protests in Seattle, Bangkok, Prague and Nice, this unique documentary represents a tentative first step toward public dialogue on the future of globalization. In a wide-ranging discussion, the two sides come to grips with such issues as the unequal distribution of wealth and power, the plight of agricultural workers and the elimination of Third World debt.

Although generally civil, the dialogue became contentious at times. The activist audience in Porto Alegre cheered when Walden Bello told the Davos panel, "You are on the planet of the super-rich ...we are on the planet of the poor, the marginalized, the oppressed...It would be good for the thousands of businessmen in Davos to be loaded into a space ship and for that space ship to take off." Financier George Soros was a lightning rod for accusations, including charges of hypocrisy and of being a "monster" by Hebe de Bonafini. He surprised many by declaring his support for a tax on international investments of the type that made him a billionaire.

Globalization: The Great Divide is a co-production of Article Z, Link TV and InterAct. Link TV is the first nationwide television network providing Americans with global perspectives on news, events and culture. The channel was launched in December 1999, on DIRECTV and added to EchoStar's DISH Network a few weeks later. Currently, the channel is available as a basic service in over 14 million U.S. homes that receive direct broadcast satellite television (DBS). Link's 24-hour programming consists of first-run documentaries on global issues, foreign feature films, current affairs series and the best of World Music.

Article Z was founded in 1998 by Patrice Barrat and six other associates to bring innovation and openness to the production and distribution of international television projects. InterAct (Internews Interactive) is a non-profit organization created to develop interactive dialogue in the digital age.

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For background information on Link TV, please visit  
<http://www.LinkTV.org/whoweare/history>