Former Russian ambassador to talk on Middle East and war with Iraq

Ambassador Oleg Grinevsky, a senior member of the Soviet/Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who served for 40 years under Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov and Gorbachev, will speak at 4 p.m. Monday, March 3, in 115 Shideler Hall. His topic is "Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Capabilities: The Soviet and Russian Assessment."

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, he was a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Special Group. He was also appointed director of the Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry and worked on high-level decision-making processes concerning a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli Conflict and the Afghan War.

Grinevsky helped negotiate the 1986 Stockholm Document on Confidence and Security Building Measures, the first agreement made during the Perestroika era. He was Gorbachev’s Ambassador-at-Large and worked with leaders including Margaret Thatcher, Saddam Hussein and Muammar Kaddafi.

In 1989, he headed the U.S.S.R. delegation to the Vienna Conference on Conventional Armed Forces Reduction in Europe (CFE). From 1991 through 1997, Grinevsky served as the Russian ambassador to Sweden. Between 1997 and 2000, he was a research fellow at Stanford University. He is currently a visiting professor at the Contemporary History Institute at Ohio University.


Grinevsky’s talk is free, part of the Grayson Kirk Lecture Series, and is sponsored by Miami's international studies program, the Institute of Environmental Sciences and the Havighurst Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies.