Colin and Margaret Legum, internationally regarded for their perceptive analyses of social problems around the world, spent two weeks on the Bloomington campus during the latter part of September as Distinguished Citizen Fellows of the Institute of Advanced Study. Their visit was also cosponsored by the African Studies Program, the Middle Eastern Studies Program, the Center for the Study of Global Change, the School of Journalism, and the Office of International Programs.

The Legums were both born in South Africa, and in 1997 they again took up permanent residence there. During the apartheid era, however, they lived in exile in Great Britain, having been officially banned from South Africa because of their anti-apartheid activities.

For 40 years of his exile, Mr. Legum served as a correspondent and as an assistant editor of The Observer (London). He also helped found, and edited for many years, Africa Contemporary Record, an annual survey of events and developments in Africa that has become an indispensable research tool for scholars and analysts. For a number of years, he was also co-editor of a similar publication on the Middle East. Mr. Legum still publishes and edits a newsletter called Third World Reports.

Mrs. Legum began her career abroad working at the Fabian Society, going on to become an internationally recognized specialist and consultant on race and gender issues. She conducts training programs relevant to these questions for government and private organizations, including large businesses and educational organizations, and has written widely on economic, political, race, and gender issues for a range of publications, including The Economist.

During their stay at IU, the Legums gave a variety of public presentations. Mr. Legum delivered a series of lectures on the evolution of Africa over the more than 50 years of his own personal involvement there. Each lecture dealt with one of the three periods into which he saw those years divided, the era of romanticism, the era of disillusionment, and the era of realism.

Mrs. Legum gave a lecture on race and gender in South Africa, where she argued that racial and sexual inequality have become so embedded in the culture and the psyche of all individuals in South Africa that eliminating them will require considerable consciousness-raising over time. In another lecture, she discussed the new economics in relation to Third World development. The two were also featured speakers in a colloquium on "How Democracy Copes with Religious Fundamentalism," with special reference to North Africa.

Each also met individually with other groups. Mr. Legum addressed a group of journalists and businessmen at a luncheon in Indianapolis on the subject of "South Africa after Mandela," and spoke to a comparative literature class on dissent in Eastern Europe and Africa. Mrs. Legum gave a talk to a journalism class on the topic of race, gender, and the media. Both gave their perspectives to an international newsgathering class on aspects of gathering news on Africa.

During their two-week stay, they were able to meet and interact with many IU faculty and students through two public receptions, one hosted by the African Studies Program, and the other by the Center for the Study of Global Change and the Office of International Programs.

— David Albright, Center for the Study of Global Change