

# Ruth K. & Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series

School of International and Public Affairs



## Through the Lens of the Czech Experience The Arab Spring and Other Narratives of Transformation

Lecture by His Excellency Karel Schwarzenberg

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

September 19, 2011 | 2:30 PM | FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus | Frost Art Museum

**Karel Schwarzenberg** is First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Born in Prague in 1937, he and his family were forced to leave Czechoslovakia in 1948 for Austria. In Austria, Schwarzenberg studied law and silviculture at the Universities of Vienna and Graz. He also studied at the University of Munich in then West Germany. He spent his time managing his family's estates in Austria and Bavaria. In 1967, he married his wife Dr. Terezia Hardegg. Between 1984 and 1991, Schwarzenberg served as President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. In 1989, he received the Human Rights Award of the Council of Europe together with Poland's Lech Walesa. Also that year, Schwarzenberg was able to return to his homeland. In January of the following year, he was appointed a member of President Václav Havel's Collegium of Counselors. From July 1990 to July 1992, he served as Chancellor to President Havel. In 2002, Schwarzenberg was awarded the Order of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk 3rd Class, a state decoration awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development of democracy, humanity and human rights. From 2004 to 2010, Schwarzenberg served as Senator of the Parliament of the Czech Republic representing the 6th district. He chaired the Senate's Foreign Affairs, Defense and Security Committee and served as a member of the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Between January 2007 and May 2009, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs. In May 2010 he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies and in July he was appointed to his current position.

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Event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 305-348-7266.