

REMARKS
BY
AMBASSADOR JOSEPH VERNER REED
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
AT THE
ANNUAL AWARD DINNER
OF THE
APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION

NEW YORK CITY
TUESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1993

- 2 -

I WELCOME THIS CHANCE TO GREET ALL WHO HAVE GATHERED FOR THE ANNUAL APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE AWARD CEREMONY. I CONGRATULATE HIS HOLINESS ALEKSY II, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA, AND MR. JOHN BOLDUC, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE W.R. GRACE COMPANY. I BELIEVE, THEY REPRESENT TWO ESSENTIAL FORMS OF CONTRIBUTION TO A BETTER WORLD: FAITH AND ACTION. THE WORLD CERTAINLY NEEDS BOTH -- GREAT SPIRITUAL LEADERS AND GREAT CITIZENS.

FOR THREE DECADES, YOUR FOUNDATION HAS FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM. WITH THE DARK DAYS OF THE COLD WAR NOW OVER, FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE PROVED STRONGER THAN TYRANNY. THESE TWO GREAT PRINCIPLES ARE LINKED. RELIGION SANCTIFIES THE INDIVIDUAL, AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS MUST INCLUDE THE RIGHT OF FREE BELIEF.

- 3 -

THE DUTY TO PROTECT THESE RIGHTS IS NEVER-
ENDING. YOUR FOUNDATION WORKS TO PROTECT THESE
RIGHTS. AND THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER CALLS FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE RESPECTED, WITHOUT DISTINCTION
OF RACE, SEX, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION. AS WE WORK TO
PROTECT THESE PRINCIPLES, REMEMBER THAT THEY
PROTECT US. IF WE DO NOT STAND UP FOR THEM, OUR OWN
BELIEFS WILL COME UNDER THREAT.

THE DEDICATED WORK OF INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE
APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION IS INDISPENSABLE TO
THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO TRY TO
END CONFLICT AND STOP SUFFERING, IMPORTANT THOUGH
THAT IS. IF, AS THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER COMMANDS,
THE WORLD'S PEOPLES ARE TO "LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE
AS GOOD NEIGHBOURS", THE WORK OF ELIMINATING HATE
AND SPREADING UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE MUST
GROW AND NEVER CEASE.

- 4 -

PLEASE ACCEPT MY THANKS FOR YOUR SUCCESS IN
THIS WORK. I SEND MY THANKS AS WELL TO THE TWO
AWARDEES YOU HONOUR TONIGHT IN THIS WORK. YOU ALL
HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR AN INSPIRING OCCASION.