

OPENING REMARKS OF BARON DE ROTHSCHILD

Dr. Kissinger, my dear friend, Henry, thank you ever so much for what you've said. I had asked you not to make me blush, but I must say that you didn't follow entirely my request.

However, as a European, I wish to say that I share with 250 million other compatriots of Europe and leaving out the inhabitants of America the admiration that they have for you, the knowledge that they have of Dr. Kissinger, of the major statesman of the United States and I am happy and proud that you have called me your friend and that I personally feel for you the same emotions and for which I am most grateful to you, dear Henry.

Rabbi Schneier, Ambassador Angie Duke, Mr. William Marriott, Messrs. (French names)....., I cannot forget that French is the diplomatic language. (A few words in French) ... I have to pay a special tribute to those who sponsored me for this high honor. Dr. Kissinger I have already thanked. Rabbi Schneier, the ecumenical leader who has made religion a living thing, not only for his New York congregation to which, incidentally, I belong, but for people of all faiths around the world. He is the founder of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, he has had the vision to make it a course for interreligious cooperation and international understanding and I wish to congratulate him for his work, for his open attitude to all men all over the world, and to express to him my gratitude for having participated in giving me this award.

Ambassador Duke, scion of one of the leading American families, he has given service to his country in various major diplomatic posts. As part of his public service he has brought his diplomatic skills to further mutual understanding, particularly as Chairman of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation since 1973. Ambassador Duke is also the Founding Trustee and Chairman of the Board of the U.S.-Japan Foundation. He is one of the men who goes around the world with an open heart with understanding, with love for everyone and if all the world was made of people like Ambassador Duke the world would be a better place to live in. Thank you also, dear Angie, for your participation in my designation as the recipient of this award. It is a great honor that I take with a grateful heart. But I feel that I should accept this distinctive award not only for myself but also for those of my ancestors who established the reputation of my family and set the standards that I tried to live up to during my lifetime. Reading speeches of my predecessors, I recall that Arm & Hammer gave an account of how he managed to alleviate a family in Russia in the years following World War I by importing grain.....