

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
HUGH L. CAREY, GOVERNOR

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FOR RELEASE:
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1979
7:30 P.M.

REMARKS PREPARED FOR GOVERNOR HUGH L. CAREY
DELIVERED BY ISABELLE LEEDS TO THE
APPEAL TO CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION
THE PIERRE HOTEL
GRAND BALLROOM
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TONIGHT WE HONOR TWO REMARKABLE MEN.

TWO MEN OF DIFFERENT FAITHS, DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS,
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WHO NEVERTHELESS SHARE A COMMON
DEDICATION TO THE IDEALS OF A FREE SOCIETY.

BY HONORING THEM WE REAFFIRM THAT THE STRUGGLE TO
ACHIEVE THE FULL EXERCISE OF THE RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE IS
AN INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE, ONE THAT PENETRATES EVERY BORDER
NO MATTER HOW WRAPPED IN BARBED-WIRE AND GUARD TOWERS.

I THINK IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT ONE OF
THESE MEN SHOULD BE A BUILDER AND THE OTHER A PUBLISHER.

AT A TIME...

AT A TIME WHEN DESTRUCTIVE, NIHILISTIC ACTS OF
TERRORISM ASSAULT THE VERY STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY AND THE
INSTITUTIONALIZED BRUTALITY OF TOTALITARIANISM EXALTS
THE GAG AND THE PRISON-CAMP INTO INSTRUMENTS OF STATE,
HARRY HELMSELY AND AXEL SPRINGER HAVE WORKED TO STRENGTHEN
AND DEFEND THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

IN WORD AND ACT THEY HAVE PROMOTED THE ECONOMIC
AND POLITICAL HEALTH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PEOPLES AND
ENCOURAGED INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

WE RUN THE DANGER HERE, I KNOW, OF BECOMING LOST
IN A STREAM OF PHRASES AND PRAISES THAT SOUND RIGHT BUT
SAY LITTLE.

BUT IT IS...

BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND
THE NATURE OF THESE MEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE REASONS WE
HONOR THEM.

BOTH OF THEM HAVE UPHELD THE ANCIENT VISION OF
CITIZENSHIP WHICH ASKED FREE MEN TO ACT AS FREE MEN;
TO USE THEIR PRIVATE MEANS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD;
TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AND REASONABLE COMPROMISE;
TO SEEK RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE.

ALL OF US WHO HAVE LIVED THROUGHOUT THE PAST DECADES
MUST BE AWARE OF WHAT A FRAGILE THING DEMOCRACY IS.

WE MUST REALIZE HOW A SLOW AND INSIDIOUS EROSION
OF FAITH -- FAITH IN OUR INSTITUTIONS, FAITH IN OUR OWN
ABILITIES, FAITH IN EACH OTHER -- CAN ERASE THE FREEDOMS
WE CLAIM ARE SELF-EVIDENT.

FREEDOM, HISTORY TELLS US...

FREEDOM, HISTORY TELLS US, IS MORE FREQUENTLY
THE EXCEPTION THAN THE RULE.

WE HAVE THE MEMORIALS AT AUSCHWITZ AND TREBLINKA,
THE WORKING SLAVE LABOR CAMPS OF THE KGB, THE SHAMEFUL
SPECTACLE OFF THE COASTS OF VIETNAM TO REMIND US SHOULD
WE FORGET.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION, FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE, THE
FUNDAMENTAL DIGNITY OWED TO EVERY HUMAN BEING, ARE BEING
TRAMPLED AND BEATEN INTO SILENCE.

I DON'T MEAN TO PAINT AN OVERLY GRIM PICTURE.

BUT TOO OFTEN WE PRESUME ON OUR FREEDOMS, BELIEVING
THAT WHAT IS SHALL ALWAYS BE, AND DISMISSING THE PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEN LIKE AXEL SPRINGER AND
HARRY HELMSELY AS MERE WINDOW DRESSING.

AND YET THEIR ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN OUR PRIVATE
INSTITUTIONS ARE AT THE VERY BASIS OF OUR CONCEPT OF
FREEDOM.

EACH OF THEM...

EACH OF THEM, THROUGH THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF COLLEGES AND HOSPITALS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, HAVE ENCOURAGED THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDEPENDENT, FREE MEN AND WOMEN.

DEMOCRACY CAN ONLY WORK IF IT WORKS ON THIS LEVEL: IF CHURCHES, BUSINESSES AND THE PRESS CAN FUNCTION AND PROSPER APART FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE STATE.

I AM NOT ADVOCATING A RETURN, IF THAT'S WHAT IT WOULD BE, TO AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RULE OF "EAT OR BE EATEN."

WE HAVE PERMANENT AND IRREVOCABLE OBLIGATIONS TO HELP THE SICK, THE OLD, THE POOR, THE POWERLESS.

BUT WE MUST...

BUT WE MUST TRY TO CULTIVATE GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES THAT PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE AND INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY RATHER THAN SMOTHER THEM.

WE HAVE TO FOSTER RESPONSIBLE, EDUCATED AND MORAL CITIZENS WHO UNDERSTAND THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

THERE IS MUCH IN THE WORLD TO DISCOURAGE US.

WE HAVE THE EXAMPLE OF HARRY HELMSELY AND AXEL SPRINGER TO CHEER US.

MORE THAN THAT, WE KNOW THAT DEMOCRACY, HOWEVER DELICATE, IS ALSO RESILIENT.

WE SEE THE BOLSHOI BALLET AND THE CREATIVE GENIUS OF RUSSIA LURED BY IT;

WE SEE IT PUSHING ITS WAY UP THROUGH THE STREET OF PEKING, DEMANDING, AS ONE POSTER PUT IT, "DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRACY;"

WE SEE ANOTHER GENERATION VOTING FOR IT WITH THEIR FEET, AND THEIR OARS, AND THEIR SAILS, AND THEIR BLOOD.

BESET WITH OIL...

BESET WITH OIL CRISES, CRISES OF CONFIDENCE AND
THE DOLLAR, CREDIBILITY GAPS AND MISSILE GAPS, WE MIGHT
REMEMBER THAT TOMORROW DIDN'T BELONG TO THE FASCISTS;

THAT THE "NEW MAN" OF SOVIET THEORY HAS TURNED
OUT TO HAVE THE SAME HUMAN LONGING FOR FREEDOM AS THE
OLD;

THAT THE RUINS OF THE THIRD REICH HAVE YIELDED
EUROPE'S STABLEST AND STRONGEST DEMOCRACY.

EVERYWHERE THE IDEA OF FREEDOM REFUSES TO DIE.

FOR IT RESTS, I BELIEVE, ON A DEEP AND FUNDAMENTAL
PART OF OUR NATURE: THE HUMAN SPIRIT OR SOUL OR CONSCIENCE;

THAT INSTINCT FOR COMPASSION, FOR JUSTICE, FOR
FREEDOM WHICH MAKES US MORE THAN ACCIDENTS OF EVOLUTION;

WHICH BINDS US TOGETHER AS THE HUMAN FAMILY.

THESE AWARDS PROCLAIM...

THESE AWARDS PROCLAIM THAT IDEAL.

GIVEN ALL THE DIFFERENCE OF CULTURE AND RELIGION, IDEOLOGY AND CUSTOM, STILL WE MAINTAIN THE CONTINUITY OF OUR HUMANITY AND OUR CONSCIENCES.

WE INSIST ON A COMMON CORE OF VALUES, ON MORAL AND ETHICAL BELIEFS, THAT NO LAW OR PHILOSOPHY OR PARTY CAN ANULL.

THIS STRUGGLE IS A UNIVERSAL ONE, WAGED IN THE NAME OF THOSE THOUSANDS PERSECUTED AND MAIMED AND MURDERED IN THE NAME OF CONSCIENCE.

CERTAINLY, THERE IS A STAGGERING AMOUNT THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE, BUT BECAUSE OF ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE APPEAL TO CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION AND MEN LIKE HARRY HELMSELY AND AXEL SPRINGER, WE HAVE REASON TO BE HOPEFUL.

THANK YOU.